Amarra Vinyl

The purist music player

User Manual

It's Like Hearing Music For The First Time™

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Sonic Studio

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Chapter 1.....Introduction

Amarra Vinyl is an easy to operate, task-specific tool for recording and restoration of audio on your Apple computer. Amarra Vinyl is ideal for:

- Recording vinyl, tape, or any analog audio source
- Analysis of audio clicks, distortion, hum, hiss
- Restoring your precious recordings using Sonic's award wining NoNOISE™ restoration technology
- Edit your material and define Tracks transitionsr
- Export your Tracks with album, artist and track info for use in other applications such as iTunes®.

Amarra Vinyl allows you to record, audition, repair, edit and mark audio with metadata (album name, artist name, track name) from a variety of sources, then export them as AIFF or WAV files.

The Amarra Vinyl workflow is:

- Record your analog source up to 192 kHz rates, depending on your Analog-to-Digital converter's (ADC) sample rate suppor
- Editing - 'Top and tail' audio
- Track definition for export: Album, Artist, Track Name (Metadata tag)
- Optional analysis and restoration
- Export

Amarra Vinyl supports the complete workflow for archiving and audio restoration. Amarra Vinyl runs on any Intel based Apple Macintosh with 10.6.8 or newer.

Scope of this User Manual

This User Manual describes the functionality of Sonic Studio's Amarra Vinyl audio recording and restoration application.

Notes Overview

These notes add more information or reinforce concepts about a particular topic or subject.

Learn Overview

The learn notes are meant to provide 'how to' or specifics about a topic or subject.

Chapter 2..... Quick Start

2.1 Before You Begin

2.1.1 Mac System Requirements

At a minimum, Amarra Vinyl requires the following:

- Apple Macintosh Intel Mac
- 1024 x 960 pixel or larger display
- 4 GB RAM minimum, 8 GB or more preferred
- OS 10.6.8 or newer
- Internet connection for licensing
- Optional Core Audio Input/Output interface - USB, FireWire, Thunderbolt

Since Amarra Vinyl uses OS X's Core Audio, the quality of audio playback will be entirely dependent on the hardware and driver(s) used.

Note that, Amarra Vinyl 2.0 and later is not supported on G5 PPC Macs.

Learn Amarra Vinyl 2.0 is a 32-bit application with all processing done at double precision.

2.1.2 Installation & Activation

To install Amarra Vinyl, please click on the Amarra_Vinyl_Release.pkg you downloaded from www.sonicstudio.com. Follow the on-screen instructions to install your software.

Please refer to the Amarra Vinyl Activation Guide, located in your Amarra application folder, for step-by-step instructions on activating Amarra Vinyl.

2.1.3 Lost Your Activation Code?

To have your Amarra Vinyl Activation Code and Password sent to your email address, please visit:

Amarra Product Activation Code Control Panel

2.1.4 Recording Requirements

At a minimum, Amarra Vinyl requires the following to record:

- Analog to Digital Converter (ADC) capable of recording at 96 kHz or greater. This can be an external converter connected via USB or FireWire, or using the built-in line input on your Mac.
- Interconnect cable from phono stage to ADC
- USB, FireWire or Thunderbolt cable for external ADC (if used)

2.2 Recording Your Records or Tapes With Amarra Vinyl

After initial set up, Amarra Vinyl makes it easy to quickly record professional quality high-resolution audio files from your record or tape collection. If you remember how you recorded your albums to cassette, you'll find the task of digitizing your audio to be very similar. Here is an overview:

- Set up an input device on your Mac
- Define where you want to put the recorded files
- Set up inputs in Amarra Vinyl
- Record your files
- Add metadata tags: Album, Artist and Track name to each track
- Export your files and add them to your iTunes Library

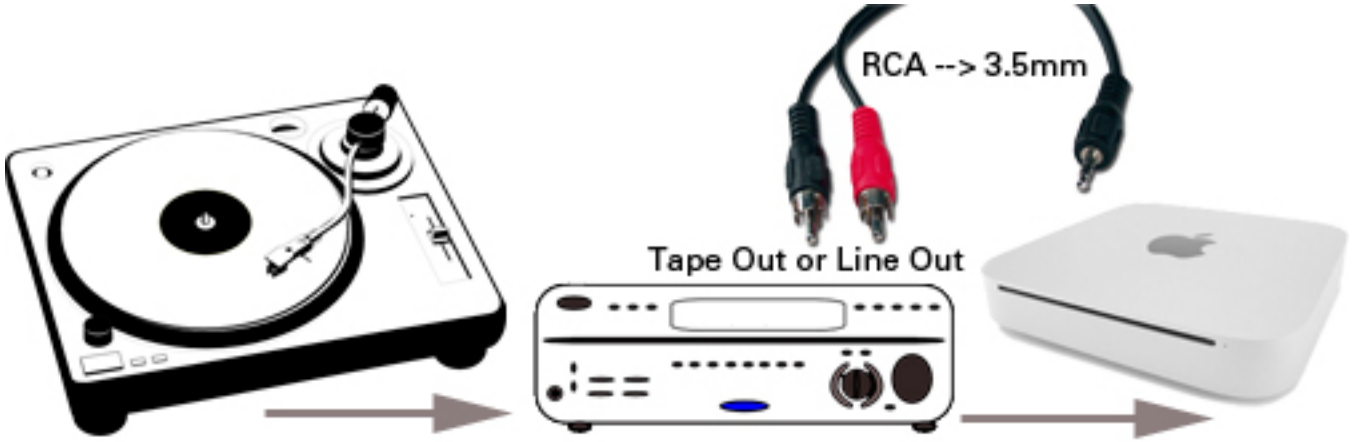
2.2.1 Input Set Up

Audio MIDI Set Up (AMSU) is the sound brain in your Mac. AMSU (Utilities/Audio MIDI Setup. app) is where you define audio input and output routing for your computer into and out of Amarra Vinyl. In this document, we'll show two examples for getting audio into Amarra Vinyl: Using the Built-in functionality of your Mac and using an external digital-to-analog converter (ADC).

2.2.1.1 Using the Built-In Functionality of Your Mac

Your Mac has a built in digital-to-analog converter (ADC), which give you the ability to digitize the output of your turntable pre amp and record into Amarra Vinyl. While not as high quality as some external analog-to-digital converters, it does provide a clean and simple way to record your Vinyl at sample rates up to 96 kHz and 24 bits.

The signal flow for this set up is: Turntable->Pre-amp/Phono Stage-> Line Input on your Mac.



Signal Flow: Turntable --> Receiver or Phono Stage --> Line Input on Your Mac

NOTE: A 3.5mm to dual RCA adaptor cable is required for this set up

To use the built-in audio functionality of your Mac to record your music into Amarra Vinyl, you need to create as a single device known as an "Aggregate Device."

To create an Aggregate Device:

1) Locate the Audio MIDI Set Up Utility in Applications/Utilities and launch.

2) In Audio MIDI Setup, click the Add (+) button in the Audio Devices window.

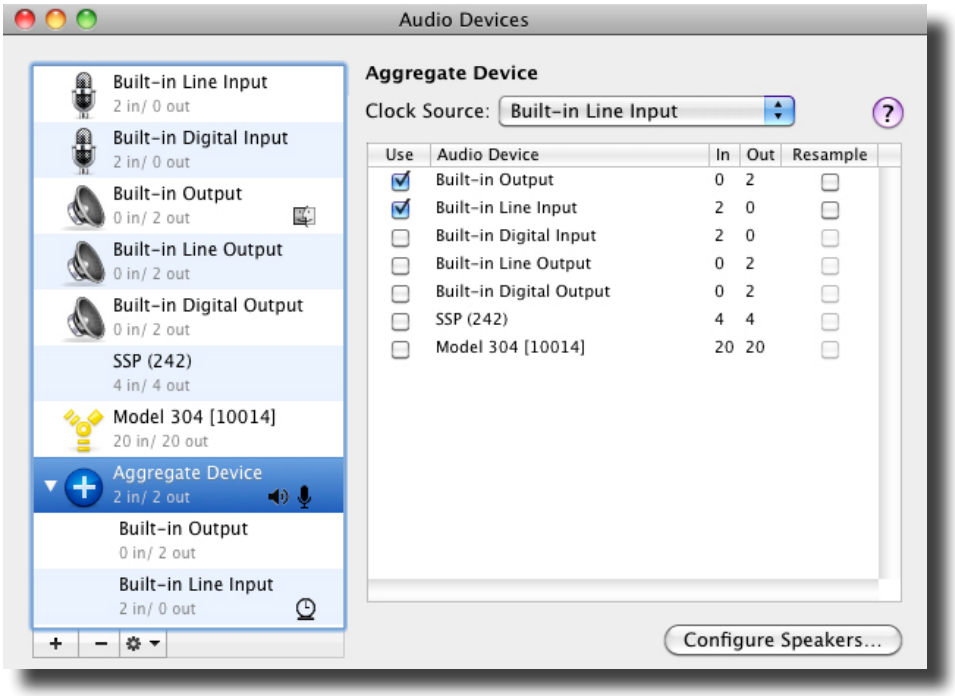
A new aggregate device appears in the list on the left side of the window. To rename the device, double-click it.

3) With the new aggregate device selected, on the right side of the Audio Devices window click the Use checkbox for Built-In Line Input and Built-in Output, or your DAC if you have one.

The list on the right shows the currently connected audio devices and the number of input and output channels for each one.

4) Choose Built-in Line Input from the Aggregate Device's Clock Source pop-up menu.

5) With the Aggregate Device selected, locate the Action pop-up menu at the bottom of the window (looks like a gear) and select 'Use this device for sound output' and 'Use this device for sound input'. A Speaker and microphone icon will appear next to the device.



Audio MIDI Set up showing 'Aggregate Device' settings for recording to and playing back from your Mac at 96 kHz and 24 bits.

Important Note For the aggregate device to work correctly, the sample rates of the combined devices in the aggregate device must be set to the same sample rate. In this case. that is 96 kHz.

You are now set up to record using the Built-in feature on your Mac. Please skip to section 2.2.2 For more information on aggregate device settings, see the Help Menu in Audio MIDI Setup..

2.2.1.2 Using an External Digital-To-Analog Converter (ADC)

You may choose to purchase an external digital-to-analog converter (ADC). This gives you the ability to digitize the output of your turntable pre amp and record into Amarra Vinyl with the potential for higher quality recordings than using the built-in ADC in your Mac. Many external ADCs also provide the option to record your Vinyl at sample rates up to 192 kHz and 24 bits of depth.

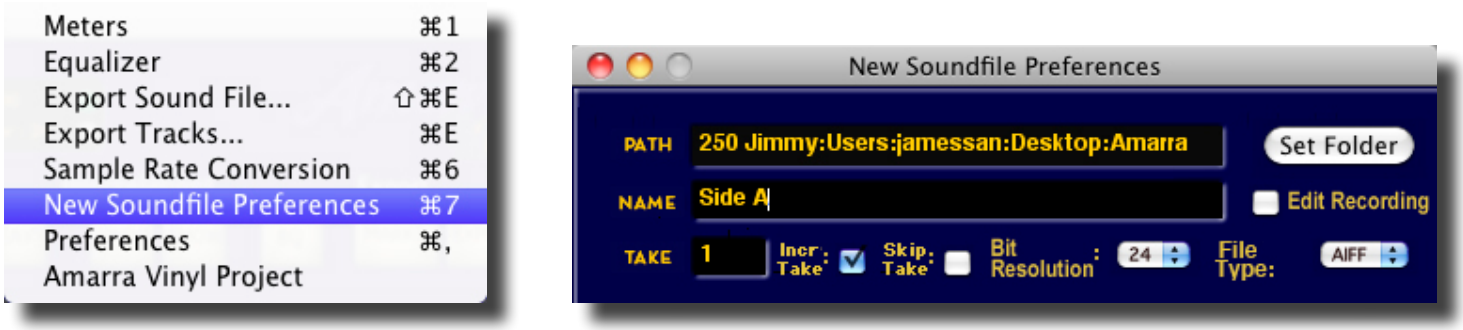
The signal flow for this set up is: Turntable->Pre-amp/Phono Stage-> Analog-to-Digital Converter ->USB, FireWire or Thunderbolt port on your Mac.

Please refer to the User Manual of your ADC for driver installation and instruction for proper connection to your Mac.

2.2.2 Defining A Recording Path In Amarra Vinyl

In order to record audio into a computer, some organization is required prior to recording each album. This task can be equated to loading and labelling your cassette.

1) Click on the Windows navigation menu at the top of the Amarra Vinyl screen and select 'New Soundfile Preference' (or Cmd-7) to bring up the Recording Preferences Window.



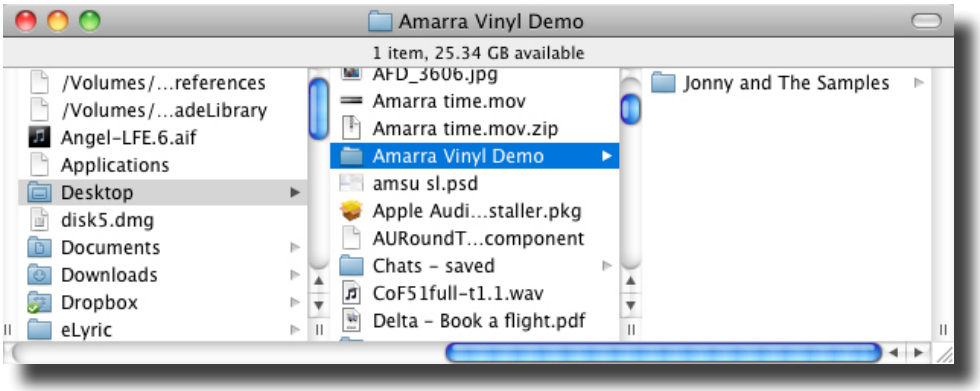
New Soundfile Preferences

2) Click 'Set Folder' to define the location on your Mac to record your audio. A Mac Finder window appears:

3) Make a new folder on your Desktop (or other location of your choice) where you want to record by clicking on the 'New' Button

4) Title the new folder Vinyl Recordings:

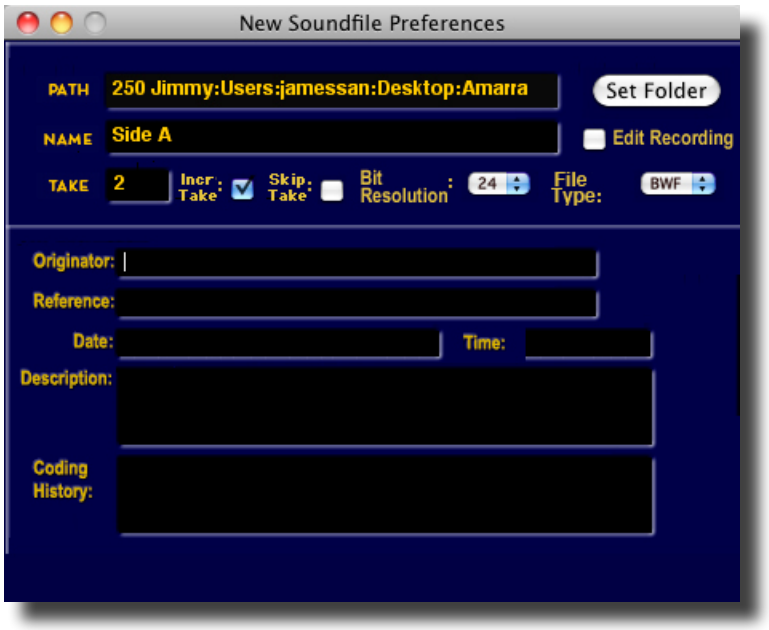
5) Click New again to make another folder inside the 'Vinyl Recordings' folder. This should be the title of the album you are going to record - 'Dark Side of the Moon' for example. Your recorded files will be stored in this folder. Click OK.



Mac Finder window showing example path for recording

Back in the New Soundfile Preferences dialog box, you need to define the bit resolution (24 bit is recommended) and file type (AIFF, WAV or BWF [Broadcast Wave File])

One advantage of using BWF is that you can specify the following metadata: Originator (you), Reference information and a more complete description of the album you are recording



New Soundfile Preferences window showing additional fields for Broadcast Wave Files

2.2.3 Amarra Vinyl Input Set Up

Like selecting the correct inputs to record from on your receiver or pre-amp, you need to set the inputs in the Amarra Vinyl interface to receive sound input from the selected Device in Audio MID Set Up. Click on the Input selector in the left margin of Amarra Vinyl and choose the correct channel for Track one and repeat for Track two.

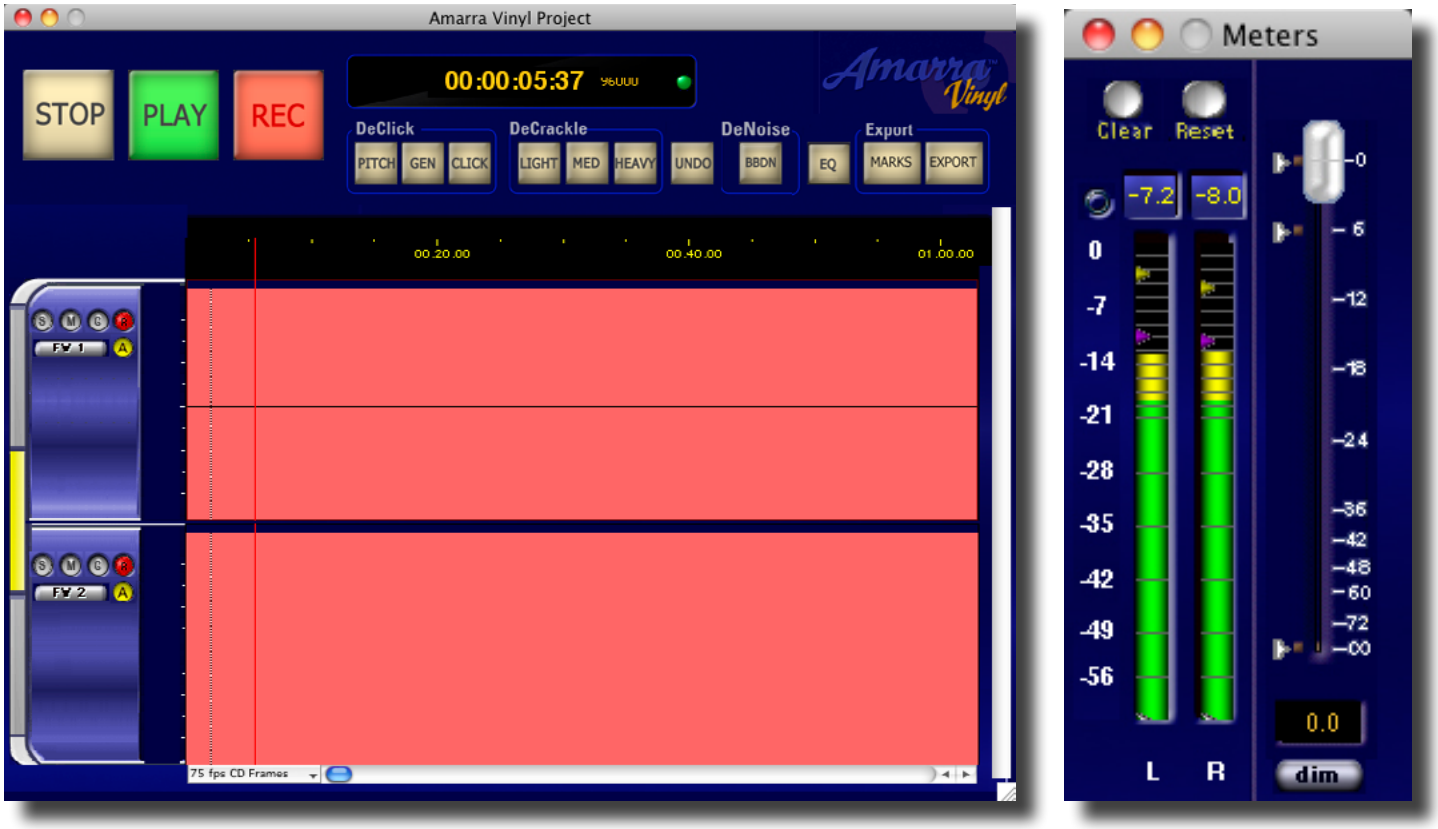
Selecting Line inputs in Amarra.
Note that, depending on your device, the selection in this list will vary.

2.2.3 Recording

Once the Recording Preferences and inputs are set you can start the recording by clicking on the Record Button on the project toolbar.

Recording button - Click to start recording.

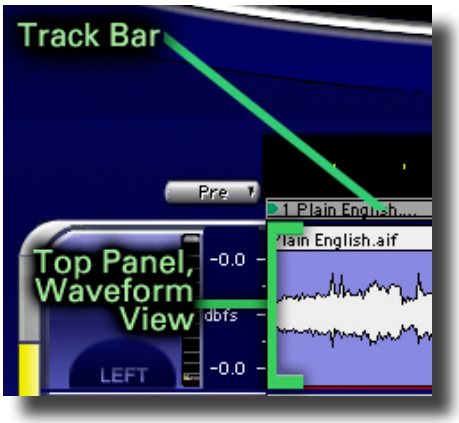
If you have not armed (enabled) tracks for record, you will be warned. You will also be warned to set the recording information if not already set. The recording will then start and the Tracks window will turn pink in color.



Amarra Vinyl in record showing level in the Meters window

Note waveforms do not draw during recording, but recording confidence is ensured via the meters in Amarra Vinyl showing activity.

When you hit the Stop button the waveforms will be built and the recording opened in Wave View.



Corner of a Project window showing the Track Bar and top Panel

You can also open existing files To open files, first collect the desired audio files, drag them and drop the files onto the top Panel. If you would like to create Track Marks then hold the command key down when releasing the files. The command key is only needed just before you drop the

files. Amarra Vinyl will automatically create Track Marks, displayed in the Track Bar, from your audio files.

HINT: More on recording can be found in Chapter 5 of this document.

NOTE: Remember to Save your projects using the File->Save command. It's a good idea to save them in the same folder as your recordings. See Appendix 1 on Project organization. Project files are very small and take up little disk space.

Learn: More on playing sound using Amarra Vinyl can be found in Section 3.5 Auditioning Sound.

2.3 Step By Step — Export Your Recording

Once you have finished a recording, the files or folders you create can be dragged from the Finder and dropped onto the iTunes window to import it into your iTunes library. However, you may want to take advantage of the Export File or Export Tracks feature in Amarra Vinyl.

This section covers the basic steps to export a recording for use in another application such as iTunes.

Exporting allows you to capture any changes you make to the original recordings as a new file.

Some common examples of why you want to export and make new files:

- create custom files of each track or different sides of an album
- trim the length of a file or cut out unwanted sections. See Section 3.8 and Chapter 4
- capture files processed with Gain, EQ or Normalization. See Sections 4.4, Chapter 10 and Section 7.2.15
- combine two sides of a record into one long file for the ultimate album listening experience

Note: The examples above are non destructive. That means that no changes are made to the original file. Because these changes are not applied to the recorded file, a new file must be rendered or created using export.

Learn About Dither: Make sure to set dither to 24 bits for exporting files. The Dither indicator in the top center section of the Project window shows green when dither on output is enabled and grey when dither is disabled. To change dither, control–click on the "Dither" label, and a contextual menu appears, allowing dither to be enabled, disabled and change bit depth..

2.3.1 How To Export Your Recording as Separate Files for Each Song

Learn Amarra Vinyl 2.2 now supports sample-rate conversion and 32-bit CAF file support when using the 'Export Tracks...' or 'Export Sound File...' commands. This feature creates multiple files at the same time, based on the sample rate and bit depth you select. Supports 44/24 and 44/16 and 48/24. A new folder is created for each conversion, at the Path you define from 'Set Folder', and titled '44-24', '44-16' and '48-24'.

Since this action does multiple exports at the same time, processing can take a while.

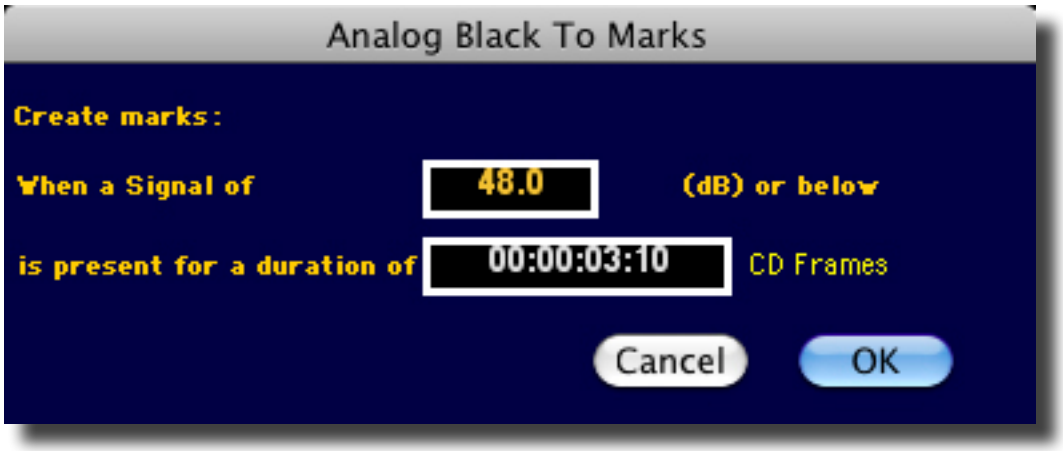
NEW Shortcut ctrl-cmd-E for Export Tracks

Step One: Define the songs to export by placing Track Marks to define custom regions such as individual songs in your album. Here's how:

Option Click on the Marks Button in the tool bar.

The Marks button defines the Track Start and Track End marks necessary to make an export. Option + Click marks individual tracks.

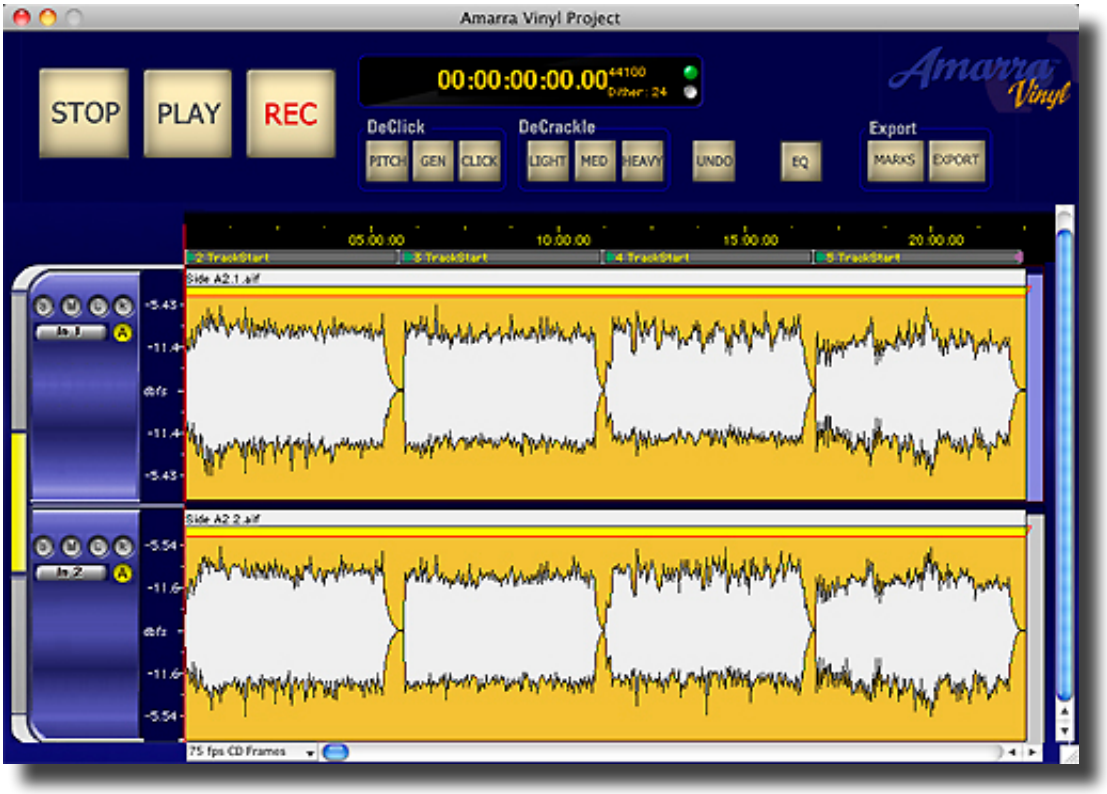
The Analog Black to Marks dialog box appears:



Analog Black to marks window. Note the 3 seconds setting.

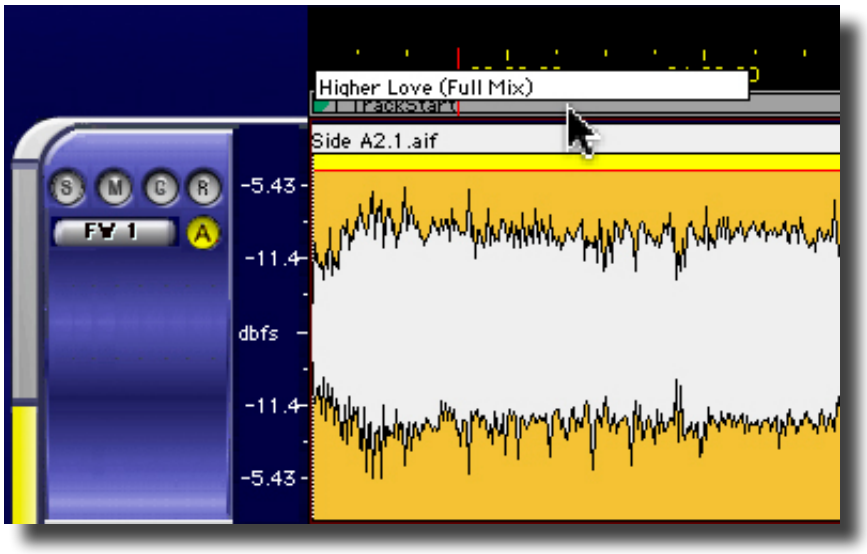
Set the time to around 3 seconds, then click OK.

This action automatically marks your recording, from beginning to end, as one long track and readies it for export to your hard drive for import into your iTunes Library.



Waveform window showing Track Start and End Marks for each song.

Next, enter the title for each track by clicking in the Track Name area next to the number for each track. You can enter the title for each track:



Double-clicking on the Track Name brings up the box to title each track.
Hit the Enter or Return key to close.

Step Two: Option + Click on the Export button in the tool bar. The Export Tracks dialog box appears:

Click the Set Folder button to define the location of the exported file.
Note the sample-rate conversion options.

Create a new folder called 'Exports' in the folder for this album to store these exports. Click on the Export button and your tracks are quickly created and ready to import into your iTunes Library.

Note: We recommend using AIFF as the Format and 24 as Bit Resolution.

Learn: More on Exporting can be found in Exporting Selections, Tracks & Segments

Learn: More on Selecting sound segments in Amarra Vinyl can be found in Selections.

Learn: More on Editing sound segments in Amarra Vinyl can be found in Section Simple Editing.

Learn: More on using Track Marks in Amarra Vinyl can be found in Section on Track Marks: Defining Metadata.

2.3.2 How To Export Your Recording as One Long File

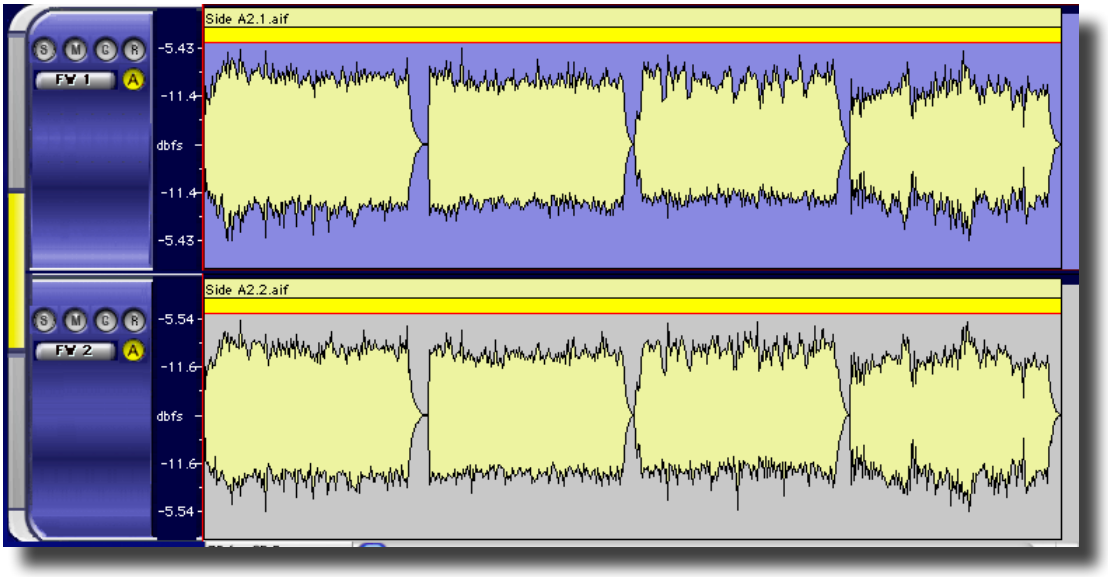
Learn Amarra Vinyl 2.2 now supports sample-rate conversion and 32-bit CAF file support when using the 'Export Tracks...' or 'Export Sound File...' commands. This feature creates multiple files at the same time, based on the sample rate and bit depth you select. Supports 44/24 and 44/16 and 48/24. A new folder is created for each conversion, at the Path you define from 'Set Folder', and titled '44-24', '44-16' and '48-24'.

Since this action does multiple exports at the same time, processing can take a while.

NEW Shortcut ctrl-cmd-E for Export Tracks

Step One: Define the file to export by clicking on the Title Bar of the file

This action selects your recording, from beginning to end, as one long track and readies it for export to your iTunes Library.



Waveform window showing sound file selection of the entire album side.

Learn: More on navigating the Amarra Vinyl Project window can be found in Section 3.6 Navigating the Waveform Display..

Step Two: Option + Click on the Export button in the tool bar. The Export Tracks dialog box appears:

Click the Set Folder button to define the location of the exported file.
Note the sample-rate conversion options.

Create a new folder called 'Exports' in the folder for this album to store these exports. Click on the Export button and your tracks are quickly created and added to your iTunes Library.

Note: We recommend using AIFF as the Format and 24 as Bit Resolution.

2.3.3 Adding Exported Files or Folders To Your iTunes Library

To add your exported files or folders to your iTunes Library, you can simply drag the enclosing folder from the Mac Finder on to the Music icon in iTunes. iTunes then imports those files into your iTunes Library at their native sample rate and bit depth.

Drag The Exported Folder Or Files From Vinyl Onto Your iTunes Music Library.

2.4 Step By Step — Restore a Recording

This section covers four basic steps to record and restore a recording. In general, you manually remove large clicks first, then DeCrackle the entire song.

Important Note: Create a copy of your original file before restoring. While change made using NoNOISE II can be undone, the process is destructive. That means that DeClick and DeCrackle changes are made directly on the file on which you are working. Because these changes are applied to the file, Sonic recommends that a new file be created by duplicating the original file and working on a copy. More about copying files in the Mac Finder can be found online.

Step 1. Create a New Project

First create a New Project.

Open Amarra Vinyl. If a blank project is not open, choose File > New Project to create a new Project.

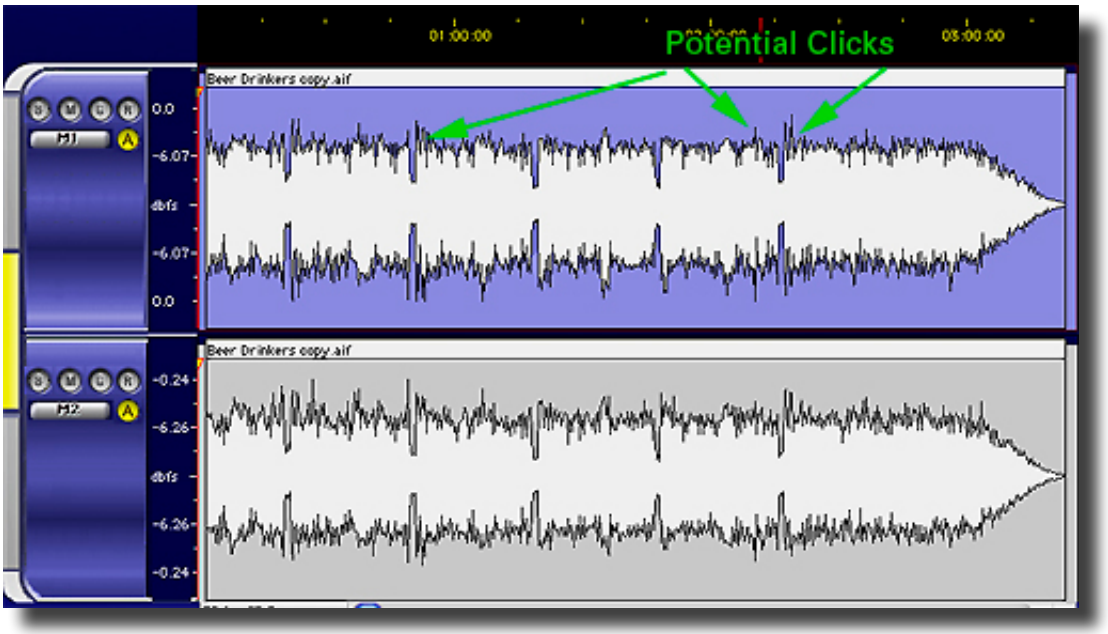
If you want to work on an existing Project, choose File -> Open.

Step 2. Open a File

Drag the file you want to restore from the Finder window onto the firstTrack window. Waveforms will be created.

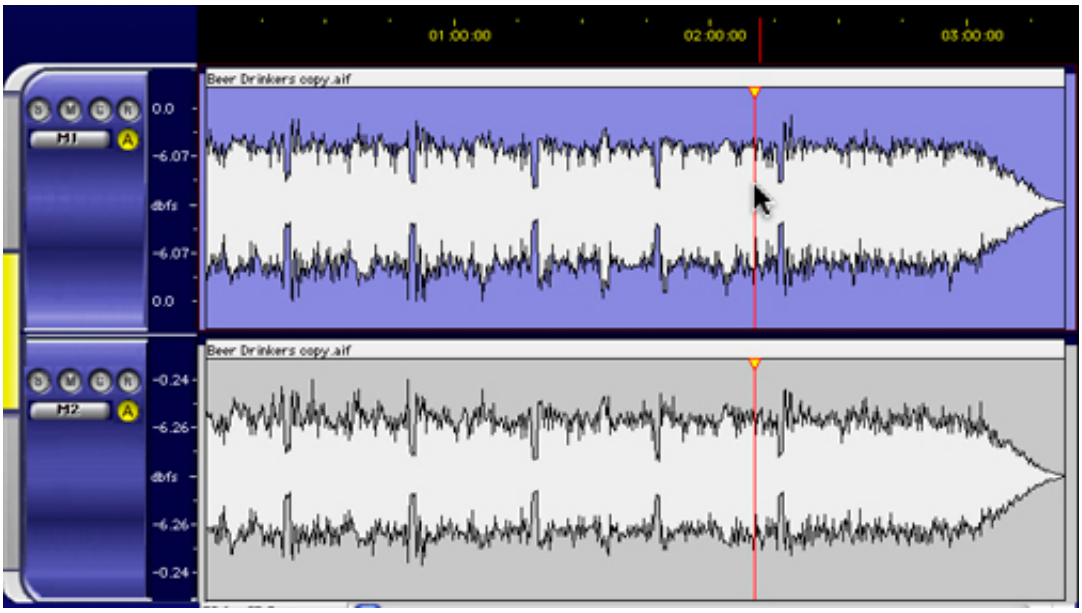
Step 3. Remove Clicks or Scratches

Locate a click in your recorded file. You can find clicks by listening to your file by hitting the space bar to play, then again to stop when you hear a click, or locating them in the waveform.



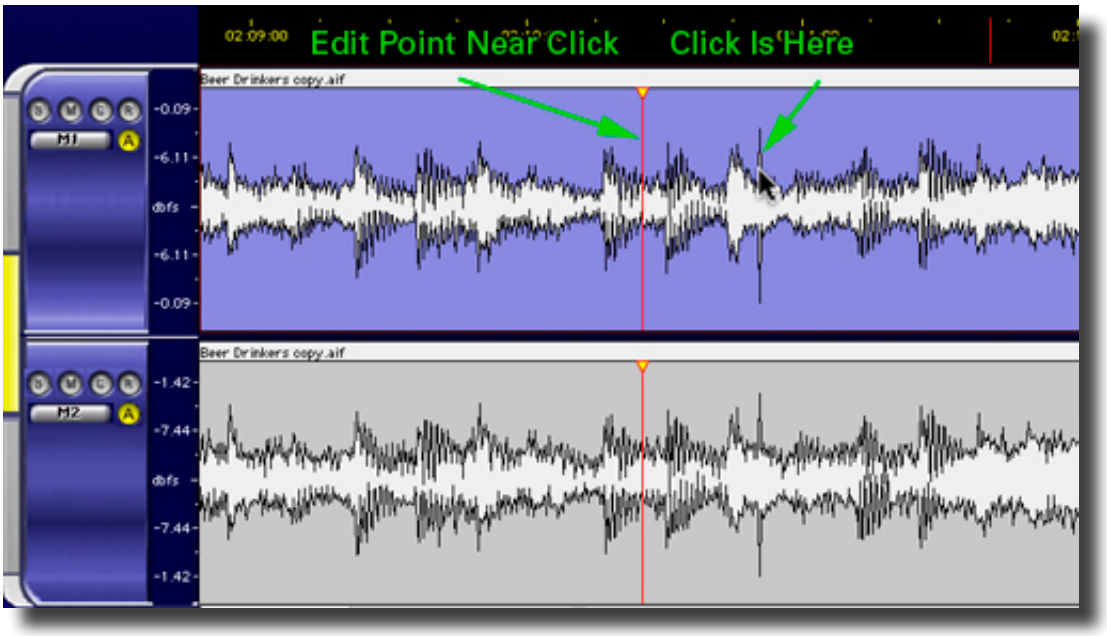
Waveform showing what clicks in a recording look like.

Use your mouse to click in the waveform near a click. This places an Edit Point in the waveform:

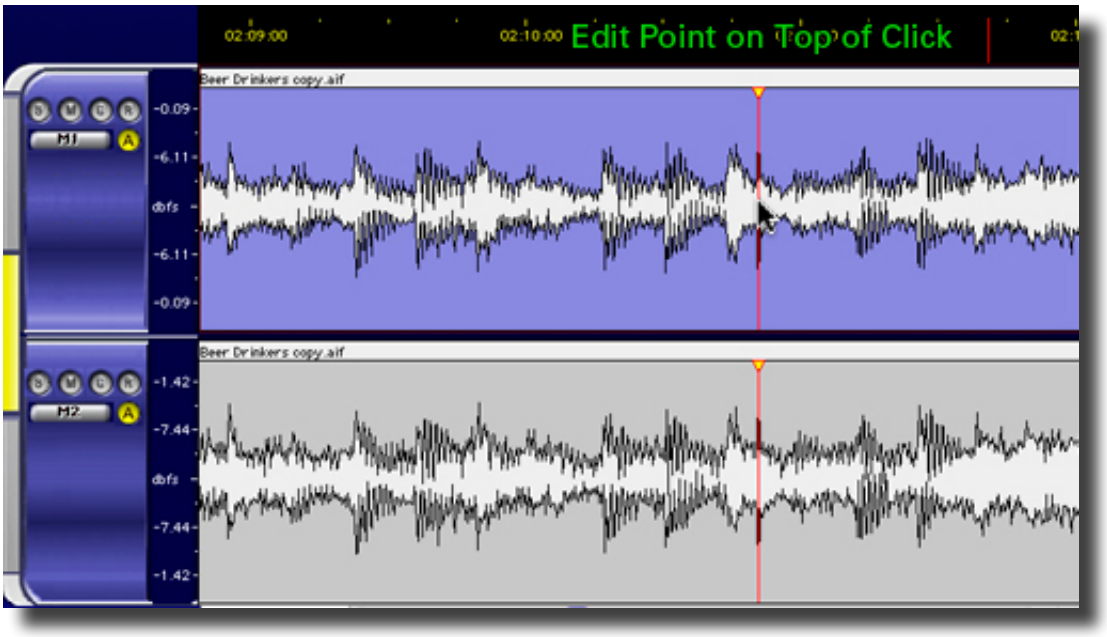


Hold the Command Key down and hit the down arrow a few times on your keyboard. This action zooms to the Edit Point:

HINT: More on zoom and waveform navigation can be found in Section 3.6 of this document.



Move the Edit Point directly over the click by clicking directly on the click you want to remove. It's easy to see a click when you zoom in.



In the DeClick toolbar, select ‘Click’

Amarra Vinyl removes the click under the Edit Point:

Click Removed using DeClick feature.

Step 3. Remove Crackle or Surface Noise

The next step is to remove unwanted crackle. Crackle can be thought of as the surface noise of a record, but it can also be the distortion found in many recordings. It's easily removed using the DeCrackle feature in Amarra Vinyl.

Select the entire soundfile by clicking once on the Title Bar or using the shortcut Command + A.

Click the MED button in the DeCrackle tool bar.

Amarra Vinyl will DeCrackle the entire sound file, first the Track 1 or Left Channel, then Track 2 or Right Channel

HINT: DeCrackle can do its magic on the entire recording or on smaller selections within a recording.

Note: DeCrackle can take a few minutes to process a file. Please be patient.

Step 4. Remove Analog Hiss or Hum (if present)

The next step is to remove any hiss or hum that may be left over from the analog equipment used to record the music.

Click the BBDN button in the DeNoise tool bar.

The DeNoise Window appears:

The DeNoise Window

Learn more about using Broadband DeNoise in Chapter 9 below.

Step 5. Export Processed File

Refer to Section 2.3 above for step-by-step Export instruction.

Learn: More on Exporting can be found in Exporting Selections,Tracks & Segments

Chapter 3..... Basic Operation

3.1 General Workflow & Explanation of Terms Used

In order to prepare your recorded audio, Amarra VINYL offers fast, simple audio editing along with creation and modification of metadata such as album title, artist etc. Amarra Vinyl is designed to primarily create finished stereo programs.

Amarra Vinyl includes an integrated recording scheme to allow high-resolution recordings up to 192 kHz from external analog-to-digital converter (ADC) or internal hardware. Amarra Vinyl provides complete flexibility for recording.

When opening a sound file into Amarra Vinyl, you are creating a copy of the file in memory that you can manipulate. This copy is placed into a 'Project,' the workspace created by Amarra Vinyl. Within the Project, you can add sound, create and edit marks that will generate Track codes, modify volume levels, restore your recordings using NoNOISE and export those changes as new files. All this information can be saved and later recalled.

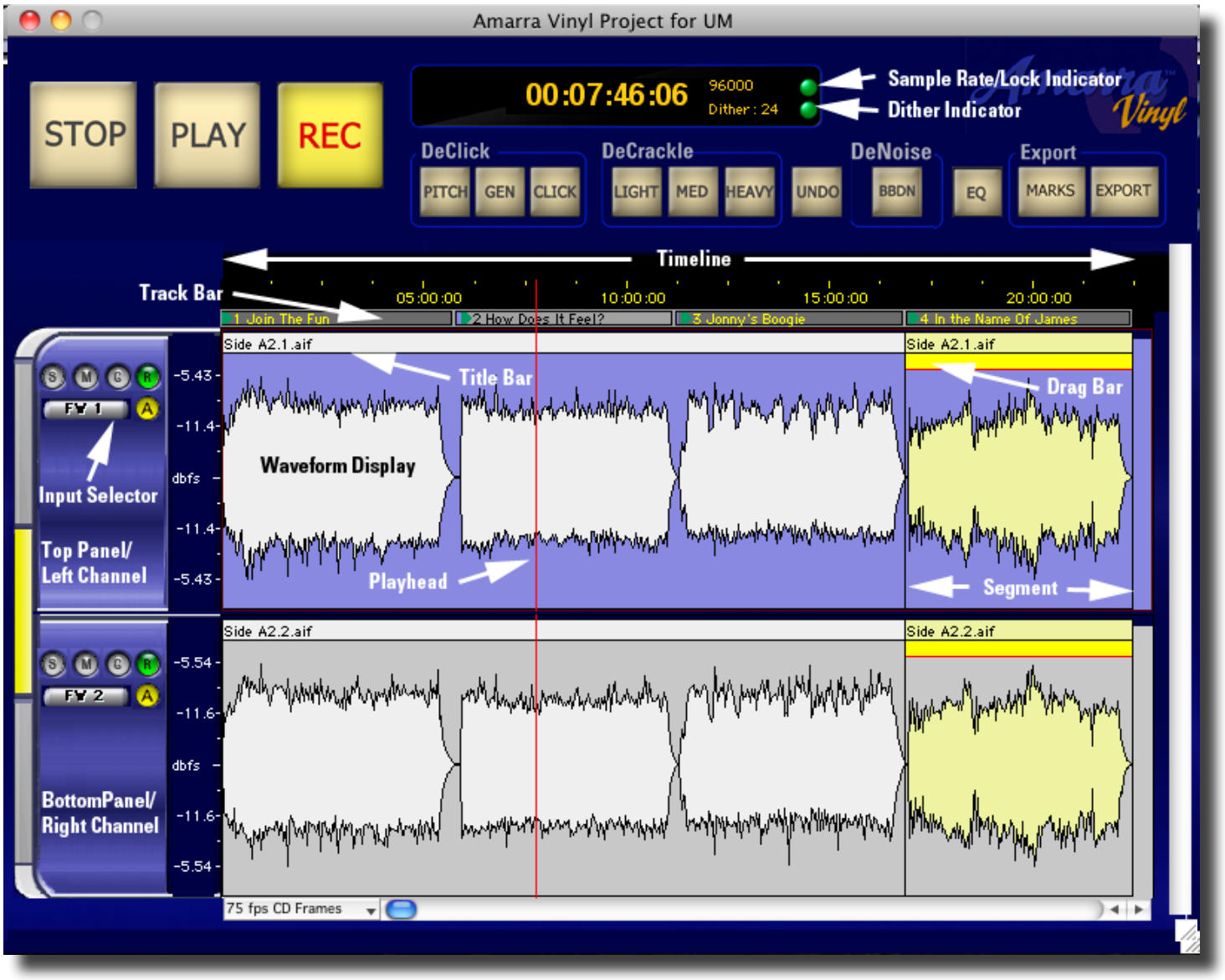
Raw sound files can be imported from various file formats, including AIFF, WAV, BWF and a variety of compressed files (MP3, AAC, and FLAC). These files are then edited, allowing you to compile a new program from various sources.

NOTE: Before restoration of compressed files they must be converted to uncompressed PCM as AIFF or WAV/BWF. Use the Export command to create the AIFF/WAV files for your work.

Using the NoNOISE toolset you can analyze the audio using FFT and Noise Estimates. With the Sonic EQ and NoNOISE restoration you can perfect the audio.

When you are satisfied that your Project is acceptable, you can create separate tracks as AIFF or WAV/BWF files using the Export feature.

3.2 Project Layout



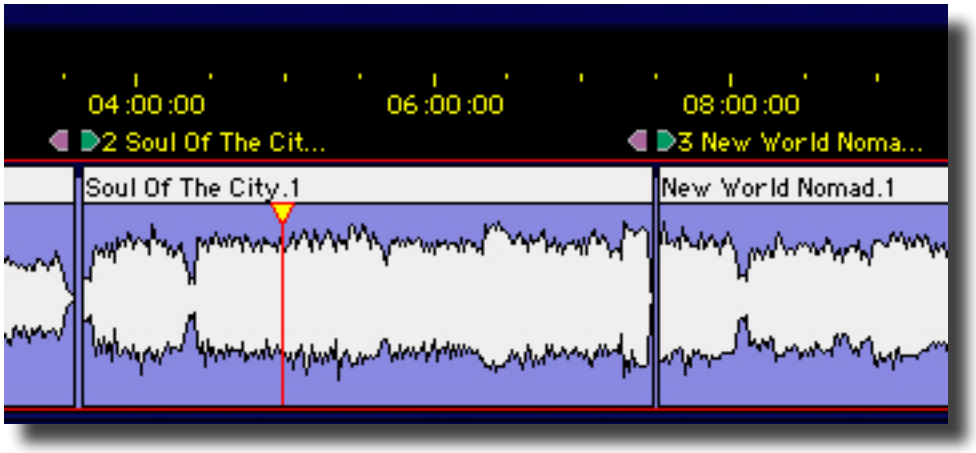
Main components of a Project window

In Amarra Vinyl, all tasks are performed in or via a Project. The bottom half of a new Project shows two empty Panels, containers for stereo sound files and their accompanying waveform displays or text lists. The upper Panel shows the left channel while the lower Panel represents the right channel. A scroll bar appears at the bottom of the Project, directly beneath the lower Panel, allowing you to scroll across the time line. To the left of this scroll bar, a drop down menu is available, where the time standard can be selected. 75 fps CD Frames is suggested.

To the left of each Panel are solo and mute buttons, labeled with an S and M respectively. Also, a gain overlay button, labeled G, is available to the right of S and M buttons. The function of this button and the application feature it brings up will be discussed later in section 4.4.

Immediately above the waveforms, is a black banner with time values in yellow. At the top of the black area is the time line for the waveforms. The bottom of the black area is reserved for

"Track Marks" and the Track Bar, discussed in section 3.9. The data underlying the whole of the two Panels, with marks and all data describing the audio program, is also referred to as the 'EDL' or Edit Decision List, and is saved as a separate file within each Project's folder.



Waveform display with marks above the Panels

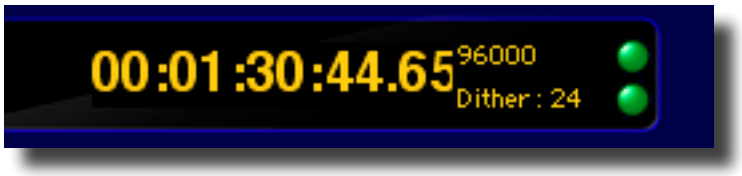
Above the time line are the transport controls. They offer dedicated buttons for play, stop and record.

A Project's Transport Controls

Also along this bar is the Toolbar with DeClick, DeCrackle, Undo, DeNoise, EQ and Export buttons:

A Project's Toolbar

Finally, at the top of the main window is the main Time Display, Sample Rate and Dither indicators:



Time Display area.

The LOCK indicator is green when Amarra Vinyl's audio engine is locked to a valid clock reference. The DITHER indicator is green when redithering on output is enabled. In both instances, green is good!

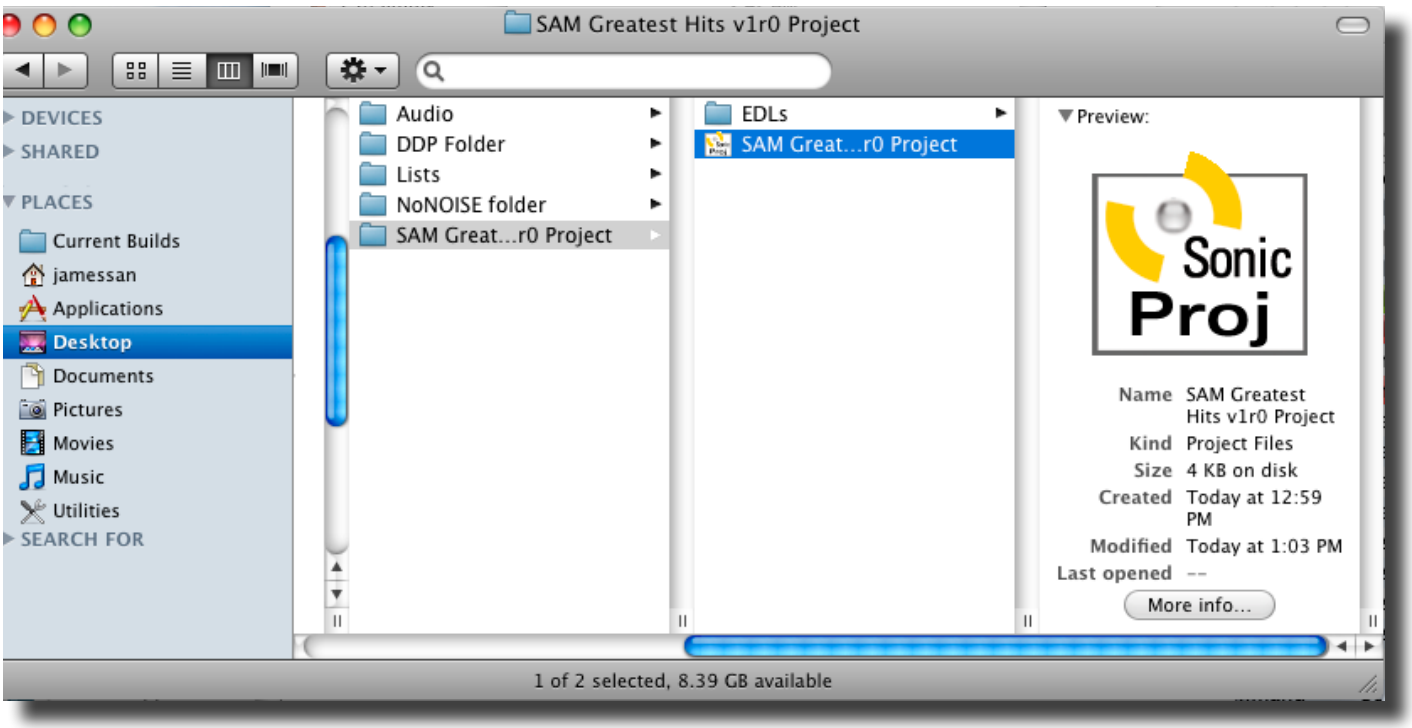
3.3 Starting a Project: Opening Files

Amarra Vinyl opens with a blank project window. You can also create a new Project by selecting File > New Project... from the menu bar. A blank, default Project opens.

NOTE: Amarra Vinyl supports one Project window open at any time.

3.3.1 Opening Projects

You can open an existing Project by selecting File > Open Project... from the menu bar. This brings up a standard Mac OS browser dialog for finding and selecting the desired Project file. Confirm your selection with Choose and the Project opens into a new Project window.



Mac OS browser dialog for opening a Project

After highlighting your selection and clicking Choose, the Project will be opened, together with any available editing and Track metadata already saved in the Project folder.

A third way to open an existing Project is by using the Finder. Simply drag the file from any folder onto the Amarra Vinyl application icon or, if the application is running, the application's Dock icon.

3.3.2 Opening Sound Files

Once your Project is open, you need to open your sound files into the Project. As with Projects, using either the File menu or dragging and dropping will work. By holding down the command key when dropping in sound files, Amarra Vinyl will autospace the new segment, as well as auto–generate Track metadata. Section 3.9.4 discusses the auto–generated Track metadata while section 4.2.1 below discusses autospacing functions in detail.

By selecting File > Open Sound File... from the menu bar, you will bring up a standard Mac OS browser dialog for finding and selecting the desired audio file. Amarra Vinyl will open AIFF, WAV, BWF and SD2 files with regions. Confirm your selection with Choose and the sound file opens into your Project.

3.3.3 Adding Your First Sound File

In addition to the Open Sound File… command, you may also drag and drop sound files into a Project. When dragging in split stereo sound files, always drag only the left channel onto the top Panel. Amarra Vinyl will parse the file and open the right channel for you into the bottom Panel.

By holding down the command key before dropping sound files, Amarra Vinyl will also automatically create Track metadata for all the files.

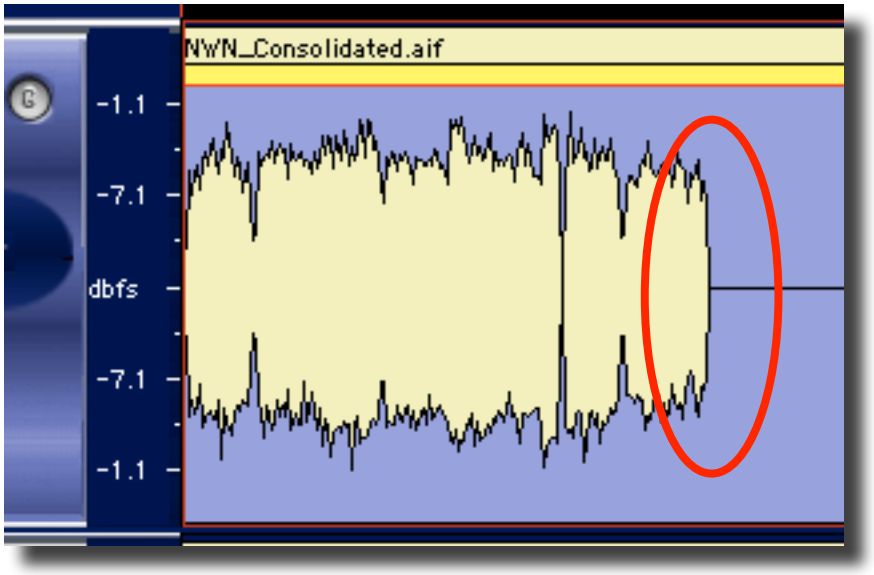
Note that command–dropping only applies to drag and drop, not to the Open Sound File… command. Later in this chapter, section 3.9 discusses Track metadata in more detail.

3.4 Waveforms

A waveform display provides visual reinforcement of audible cues when editing. Normally, the audio file types that Amarra Vinyl opens contain metadata such as sample rate and related information, but no information on visualization. Waveform shape information therefore has to be generated by Amarra Vinyl itself. The application generates individual "waveform files," one for each channel, in order to display high resolution waveforms in the Panels at any zoom level. The generation of waveform files is performed in the background so normal operation is not interrupted.

Display of a sound file without waveform metadata

If waveform files are absent from one or more audio files included in the Project, Amarra Vinyl will automatically start generating those files in the background. Waveform files, identified by their ".r" extension, are placed in the same folder as the audio files and can be read by any other Sonic Studio product.



The building of waveform metadata in progress

Once the waveforms are visible, the arrow keys control the viewing window and a quick tap of the E key always zooms out to view the entire Project. In section 3.6 below, navigating your Project is discussed in more detail.

3.5 Auditioning Sound

3.5.1 Playback

When you press the keyboard's Space Bar, the cursor changes to a "speaker & note" and playback begins. A thin vertical red line, the Playhead, spans the Panels and time line and moves horizontally to indicate the location of playback.

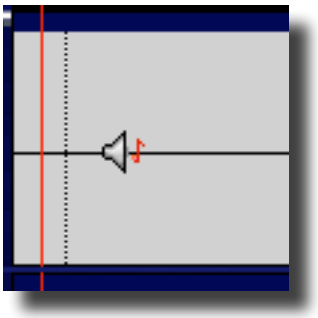
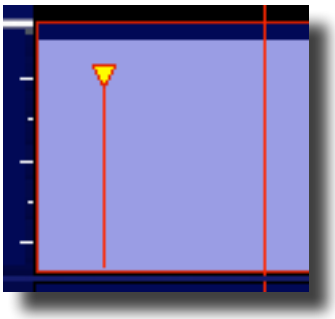


Figure 3.8: The cursor changes into a speaker & note shape during playback

When you first open a sound file and begin listening, playback, once started, will begin at the left edge of the audio. The Playhead will move to the right, across the file. When you hit the Space Bar again, playback ends and the Playhead halts its motion. When you hit the space bar a third time, the Playhead will jump back to the left side of the waveform display, the beginning of the sound file, and playback will begin again.

3.5.2 Playback from the Edit Point

When you click anywhere inside the waveform display, the entire Panel, or rectangle containing the waveform display, is selected. The selected Panel has a medium blue background and hairline red border. Once selected, a click anywhere in that Panel produces a thin vertical red line, with an inverted yellow triangle on top. This is the "Edit Point."



Empty Panels with Edit Point at left and Playhead at right

When the Edit Point is present, playback will always start from the Edit Point. When you stop playback and start again, the Playhead will jump to the Edit Point and start playback from there.

You can move the Edit Point by clicking on a new location in the waveform display. The Edit Point will jump to the click location. Alternatively, you can click and drag the Edit Point's yellow triangle to move it to a new location.

3.5.3 Playback from Playhead

The Playhead itself can also be manipulated directly. By double clicking in the black time line banner, the Playhead is moved to the click location and playback begins. You can also edit the large, central time code address in the time display at the top of a Project, which will move the Playhead to the specified address. Section 3.5.5 below discusses the time display.

The Transport Controls above the top Panel provide tape transport emulation, so you can play, stop and continue playing from the current location. You can also select the Play > From Playhead command.

3.5.4 Random Play

If you hold down the option key and move your cursor to any location in the waveform, you can click–hold the mouse button. The Playhead will move to your click location, playback will begin and continue as long as the mouse button is held down.

3.5.5 Time Displays

The large, central time code display in the center top of the Project window is live and editable. As mentioned above, you can click on any subdivision or click–drag on the entire central time code display to select and modify the current location of the Playhead.

For all editable time code addresses, a single click in any HH:MM:SS:FF subdivision will highlight that subdivision, allowing you to type in a value. By click–holding and dragging up or down, the cursor will change to an arrow and the numeric value displayed will increase or decrease respectively.

All modifiable time code fields in Amarra Vinyl support cut, copy and paste. Double clicking on any time field will select the entire field, allowing you to enter a complete time code address.

3.6 Navigating the Waveform Display

There are many tools for quickly moving around inside of the waveform display. This section covers scrolling and zooming, in general and on selections.

3.6.1 Scrolling

If you are zoomed all the way out, the entire waveform will be displayed. If you are not zoomed out entirely, some of the waveform will be invisible, off the edges of the Panel. You can move the window view left or right by moving the scroll bar at the bottom of the waveform display. You can also move the window view left and right by using the Left and Right Arrow key respectively.

Finally, you can drag the view left or right by simultaneously holding the control, option and command keys. When you click–hold, the cursor changes to a hand to indicate you are in Move View mode.

3.6.2 Zooming

You can zoom in using the Down Arrow key, and zoom out using the Up Arrow key. To zoom all the way out, hit the E key, to see your "entire" program.

3.6.2.1 Zoom around Edit Point

As you zoom in and out, it is likely that you will want to keep the Edit Point in view. To do this, hold down the Apple or command key as you use the Up Arrow or Down arrow keys. This will keep the Edit Point centered in the middle of the display.

3.6.2.2 Zoom to Selection

Clicking and dragging on the waveform itself selects a region, highlighted in yellow–orange. Typing command-G or selecting View > Zoom to Selection... will zoom around that selected region. See section 3.7 for more information on region selection.

You can also zoom to a selection while making the selection. By holding down the command and option keys while click–dragging on the waveform will define a selection and zoom to that selection as well.

3.6.2.3 Zoom Around Time Selection

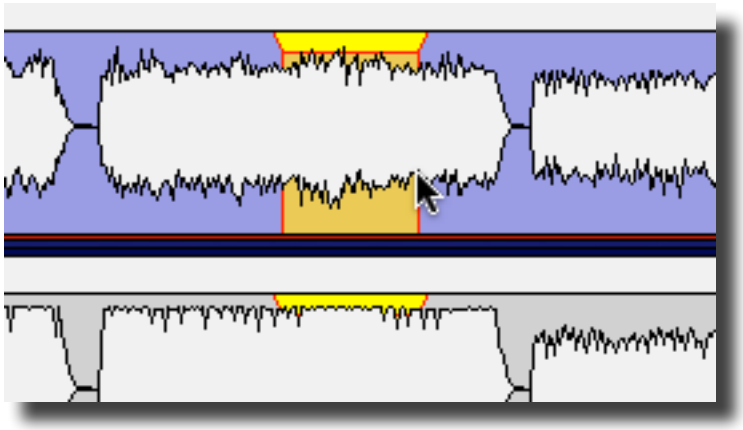
If you click and drag in the black time line banner above the top Panel while holding down the Apple or command key, the Panel will zoom to display the region of the time line that your click–drag defined.

3.7 Selections

Selections let you highlight a portion of the audio where you want to perform a desired operation.

3.7.1 Selecting a Region

To select a region, click–drag on the waveform display. At the point that you want the selection to start, click and hold down the mouse button, then drag to complete your selection. An area will be highlighted in yellow–orange, indicating the selected region.



A region selected, indicated by the yellow highlight

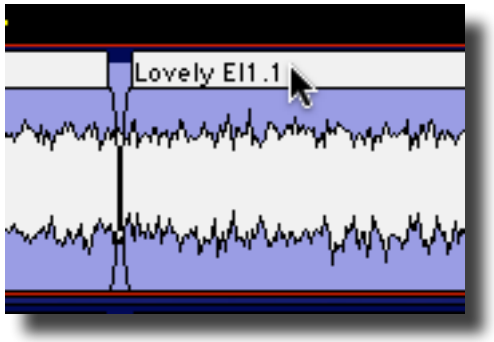
You can click–drag either left or right to define a selection. In addition, you can fine tune the boundaries of a selected region. Hold down the shift key and click on either side of the selected region then, while continuing to hold the shift key, drag left or right to expand or contract the selection.

Note that the format in which all time fields are represented in Amarra Vinyl is set to 75 CD Frames per second.

Note also that, when a region is selected and playback is invoked, the Playhead relocates and playback starts at the beginning of the selection.

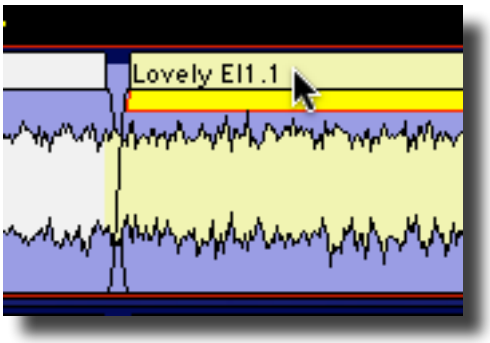
3.7.2 Selecting Segments

An entire sound file "segment," the representation of contiguous samples from a single sound file, can be chosen as a selection. Click on the white Title Bar at the top of any segment, which displays the source sound file name.



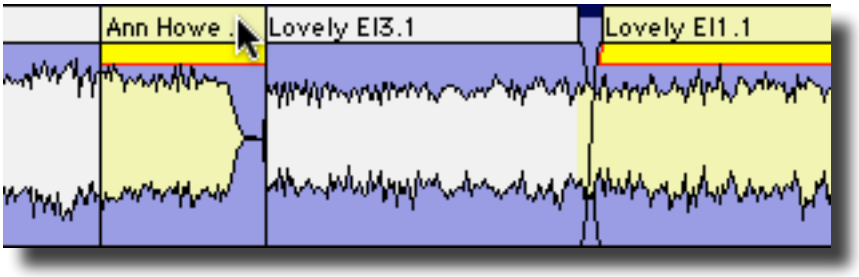
The Title Bar

The waveform highlights yellow-orange and a bright yellow bar appears below it, running the entire length of the segment, to indicate that the segment has been selected.



A selected segment, indicated by the yellow highlight

By holding down the shift key and simultaneously clicking in other segment's Title Bars, a selection of contiguous segments can be made. Also, while holding down the Apple or command key and clicking any Title Bars, a group of non–contiguous or random segments can be selected simultaneously.



Multiple selected segments

If you have an existing selected segment, several additional segment selection choices are available. By tapping the left or right arrow key, you can select prior or latter segments, respectively. By holding down the shift key, you can tap the left or right arrow key to contiguous select prior or latter segments, respectively.

Note that, when one or more segments are selected and playback is started, the Playhead moves to the head of the first selected segment and playback commences from there..

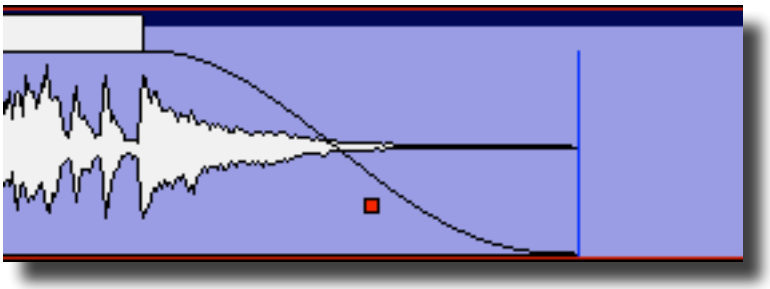
3.8 Simple Editing

There will be occasions where raw sound files need modifications. Amarra Vinyl offers advanced editing features, as well as simple tools to change amplitude and transitions.

3.8.1 The Fade Tool

The head (start) or tail (end) of segments are represented in the display by a thin black vertical line. When zooming in, this line will reveal itself to be a curve representing a 'fade' or amplitude versus time "envelope." Each segment starts with an Fade In and ends with an Fade Out. Fade

Ins and Outs are both “Black Fades” where “black” refers to “Edited Black,” the absence of audio data in the Panel.

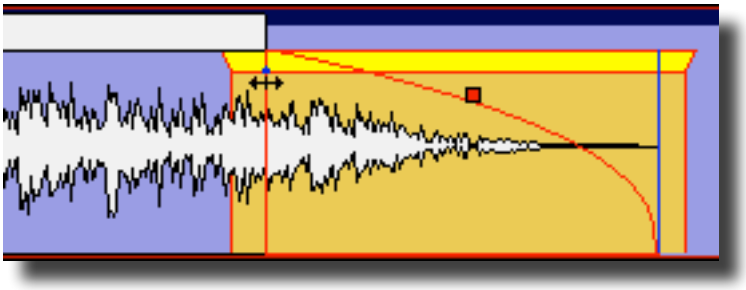


End of a segment with Fade Out glyph

Fades have a specific starting location and duration. Both parameters can be easily adjusted with the “Fade Tool.”

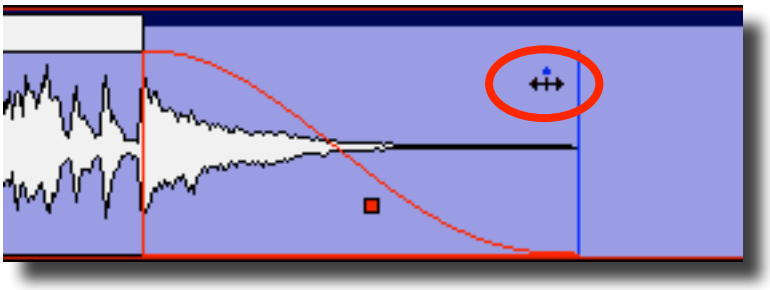
First, the duration or length of the fade can be changed. To do so, zoom in so you can see what you’re doing and have reasonable control of the fade. Then, click–hold and drag on the upper “inside” edge of the fade to the desired location.

Note that, with the cursor on the upper inside edge, the cursor changes into a cross with left, right and up arrows indicating you can change the duration.



Fade tool symbol while moving top inside edge of the Fade

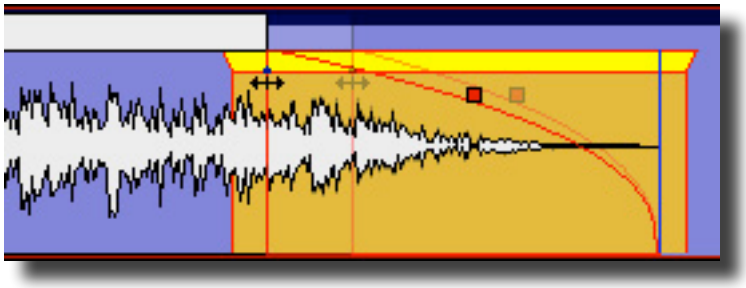
Of course, the length of a fade can also be changed by moving the lower or “outside” edge of a fade, leaving the inside edge in place. To do so, move the cursor over the fade near the bottom of the display until the cursor changes into the Fade Tool again. This time, the cursor changes into a cross with left, right and down arrows.



Fade tool symbol indicating you are changing the outside edge of the fade

Click–hold and drag the bottom end of the fade to the desired position. Release the button to confirm the change. Remember that modifying the outside edge is only possible within the limits of the actual samples of audio data represented by the segment.

If the cursor is moved over the middle portion of a fade, the Fade Tool cursor also appears but this time as a horizontal arrow with a vertical center line. In this trim mode, you are able to move the entire fade left or right, changing its location without changing its duration. This allows you to "hide" or "reveal" portions of the underlying segment, by shortening or lengthening the segment duration, trimming the segment as you go. Click–hold on the fade and drag the fade left or right. Releasing the mouse button fixes the fade in that location. While you are moving or changing a fade with the Fade Tool, the waveform is "live," continuously changing visually to reflect the modifications you are making.



Dragging the inside edge to lengthen a Fade

Note that the maximum duration of a fade is equal to the underlying sound file duration. As mentioned above, it is not possible to move a fade past the actual start or end of an underlying sound file.

Also, moving Black Fades so more than two overlap is not allowed as well. A modal "CheckForTripleOverlap" dialog will pop up, telling you that your command would result in three Black Fades lying on top of each other.

3.8.2 Deleting Part of a Sound File

It may be necessary to edit out some part of a sound file. Amarra Vinyl allows you to do so quickly and with great precision. To easily cut out a portion of a sound file, simply select the region that you want to remove. Then, select Edit > Delete Selection or hit the delete key to remove the selected region and "slip" all downstream segments left to close the gap. More on this later...

Similar to clearing the selected region, you now have two new segments. When deleting the selection, however, the two new segments are joined together with a "Crossfade." It is represented in the waveform display as an overlapping Fade In and Out.

The delete functions mentioned above also work with one or more selected regions. Simply click–drag to select a region, and hit delete or option–delete.

3.8.3 Splitting a segment into new segments

Occasionally, existing segments need to be split in separate segments before further editing can be performed. This can be achieved by manually creating a new Crossfade within a segment.

To create a new Crossfade, simply place your cursor at the desired location, and double click. This moves the Edit Point to the click location. Then, select Edit > Create Crossfade from the main menu. A new Crossfade is created at the location of the Edit point. Also see section 3.8.2 above for information on deleting segments.

3.8.4 Manipulating Fades

With Crossfades, the FadeTool can also be used to modify or move the fades, either as a complete Crossfade or as individual Black Fades. When the cursor is moved over a Crossfade, it changes into a pair of parallel horizontal arrows. The Fade Out changes to red while the Fade In changes to green.

To move the whole Crossfade either left or right, once again hiding and revealing audio on either side, simply click and drag the Crossfade to the desired location. Release the mouse button to drop the Crossfade at a specific spot.

To modify the fades individually, press the option key while modifying the Fade Out, and the Apple or command key while modifying the Fade In. With these modifier keys, the Fade Tool works as if the fades were isolated, as described in section 3.8.1 above. While operating on one fade of a Crossfade individually with modifier keys, the fade not being manipulated will deselect, indicated by its color changing to black.

If you decide that default duration of your crossfade is not right, simply hold down the shift key and place the cursor over the center of the crossfade until the cursor changes into the pair of parallel horizontal arrows. Click–drag up or down and the duration will increase or decrease, respectively.

Note that, to be able to do any of the above fade manipulations with accuracy, it may be necessary to zoom in until the Crossfade extends over a significant proportion of the waveform display. The View > Zoom To Previous command will zoom you out to your previous view quickly after such fine adjustments.

3.8.5 Exporting Selections, Tracks & Segments

Selections, including both selected segments and selected regions, can be exported as AIFF, WAV or BWF files, with source resolution of up to 192 kHz sample rate and 16 or 24 bit word length. To do this, use the Export button. It exports the audio with amplitude changes from segment gain, plus any Gain Overlay and NoNOISE processing.

To use this function, create a selected region. Then click the Export button and choose the destination directory with the Set file button. Finally, set the file type, word length and speed (8x or MAX is recommended, then click the Export button. Amarra Vinyl will "play" the selected region out of realtime, exporting the audio as a new file.

Note that playing the material at 1x speed during export will not improve the quality so, it is recommended that, unless real–time playback is needed, you use the highest speed setting as it has better temporal resolution. Also, during high speed exports, the time display and Playhead do not operate in real time.

Note that 24-bit soundfiles can be created using the Export Sound File feature.

3.9 Track Marks: Defining Metadata

This section provides the basics on Track and delivery aspect of Amarra Vinyl…Once all of your tracks for our recording are put in the right order and spaces between the tracks are adjusted to taste, the Track marks can be created. Track marks generate the TOC or Table of Contents for the final replication master. Track marks are shown in the black banner just below the time line.

The Track Bar and its Track marks

With the Track Bar visible, Start of Track marks are indicated by an arrow pointing to the right while End of Track marks are indicated by a arrow pointing left. Index marks are indicated by a yellow arrow pointing down.

3.9.1 Inserting Track Marks Manually

To insert a new Track mark, place the Edit Point at the location where you want the new mark to appear. Then select Mark > Track Start Mark, which adds the new Start of Track mark.

3.9.2 Moving Track Marks

It's easy to relocate Track marks. Simply click–drag on a mark to move it to the desired location.

3.9.3 Removing Track Marks

To remove one or more Track marks, click–drag in the waveform display to select a region that includes the mark(s) you want to remove. Then, select Mark > Delete Mark and all marks within the selected region will be deleted. If you are working in the Windows > Mark Info window and have a mark selected, you can also use the Mark > Delete Mark command to remove the mark. The Mark Info window is discussed in detail in section 3.11.1 below.

A third method is to use the contextual menu to delete or otherwise modify a mark. Simply control–click on a mark, and make your selection from the menu.

3.9.4 Inserting Track Marks Automatically

3.9.4.1 Command–Dragging

The fastest and easiest way to generate Track metadata is to simply drag and drop. By holding down the command key before dropping one or more sound files onto the top Panel of your Project, Amarra Vinyl automatically creates CD Track definitions by generating Start and End of Track marks for each file. These Track definitions can later be rearranged or modified to taste.

3.9.4.2 Analog Black To Marks

If you material consists of one long, consolidated file with few or no edits, then you may want to automatically place Track marks with the Analog Black to Marks function. This function measures the amplitude of your audio and places Track marks at the edges of long duration quiet passages. Both amplitude and duration are user adjustable.

To use, first Option + click on the Marks button to create Track Start and Track End marks. Double Click on each title to enter Title text. Then, Option + Click on the Export Button. In the resulting modal dialog, specify the amplitude (default is good) and duration (usually 3 seconds) of the selected region you want to mark.

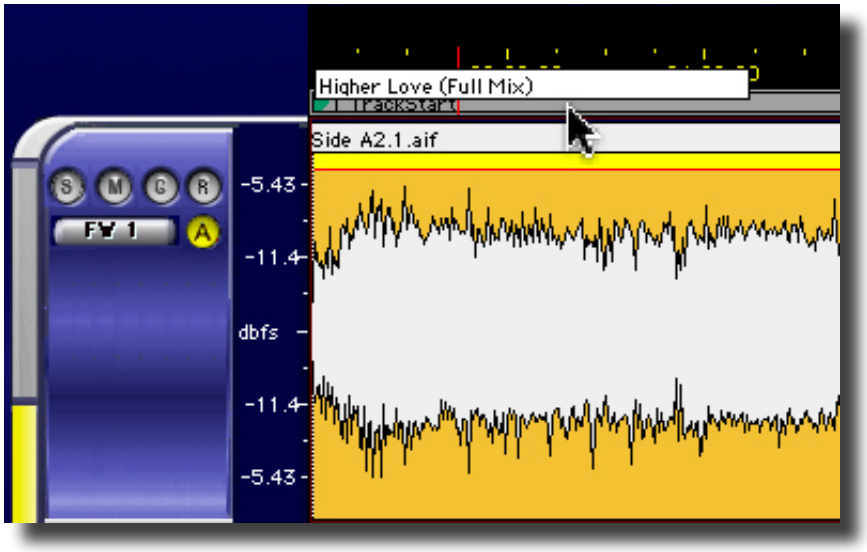
The results of the Analog Black To marks function will provide quite usable Track mark placement even with un–edited material. The placement accuracy is dependent on the settings used, as well as the assumption that tracks always start and end with an increase then decrease in amplitude and quiet in between. However, it is very likely that those same criteria also apply to other moments in the course of a musical piece so, the results of the Analog Black To marks function should always be checked for acceptable accuracy. You may also try the command, check the result and adjust the parameters prior to undoing or deleting marks and using the function again. See section 3.9.6 below for useful information on checking mark accuracy.

3.9.5 Tracks

Amarra Vinyl allows you to display and manipulate Track Start and Track End Marks. Each Track that will result from your current Track placement is shown in grey while the pause between tracks is shown in blue.

An enlarged portion of the Track Bar and the Start of Track 1

Double-clicking in the Track Name area next to the number for each track, you can enter the title for each track:



Double-clicking on the Track Name brings up the box to title each track. Hit the Enter or Return key to close.

4.1 Fade Tool Options

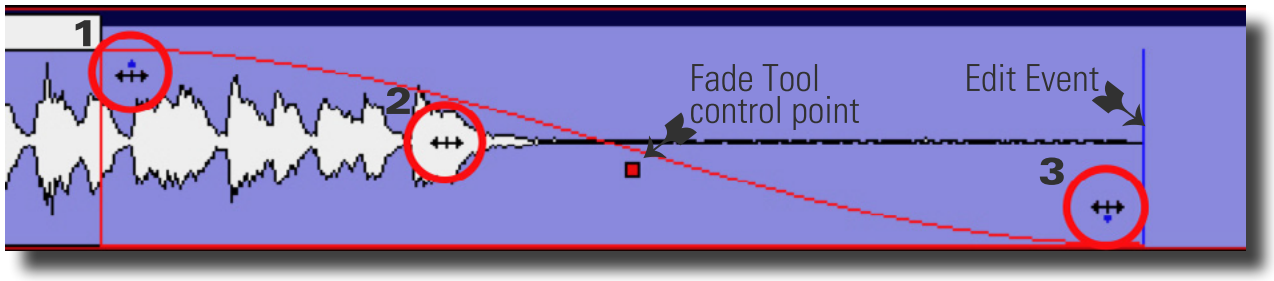
4.1.1 Changing Fade Parameters

Amarra Vinyl offers a simple and intuitive tool for changing a fade's gain characteristics: the Fade Tool. In the previous chapter, we have seen how to use this to perform simple operations. The Fade Tool offers additional possibilities to alter fades according to your needs and preferences.

The Fade Tool is enabled by default. By holding the control key and typing A, you can quickly disable or enable the Fade Tool. Alternately, you can force the Fade Tool off by default. In the EDL tab of the Windows > Preferences window, the Fade Tool check box keeps the Fade Tool enabled until you choose to disable it manually.

When moving the cursor over a fade with the Fade Tool enabled, the default cursor changes into the Fade Tool and the selected fade turns either green for an Fade In, red for an Fade Out or both. Depending on cursor location relative to the fade, the Fade Tool modifies the start, end, length or position of the fade. See section 3.8.1 for basic information about the Fade Tool.

If you zoom in on a Fade so that more than about 10% of the waveform display is occupied by the fade, you will see the thin blue vertical line that represents the edit event and a diagonal line or "curve" that represents the gain law or change in amplitude dictated by the fade. Situated in the middle of the diagonal curve and attached to that line is a square "bead," the Control Point for the fade curve.



Anatomy of a Fade

Figure 4.1 above shows the major parts of a Fade and the various contextual shapes that the cursor assumes based on location. Note the Control Point and edit event, discussed in upcoming sections.

On the left, the #1 cursor is set for an "inboard" duration change. Placing the cursor at that location and click–dragging will increase or decrease the duration of the fade without changing the edit event location or gain law. This is the preferred handle to use when changing duration.

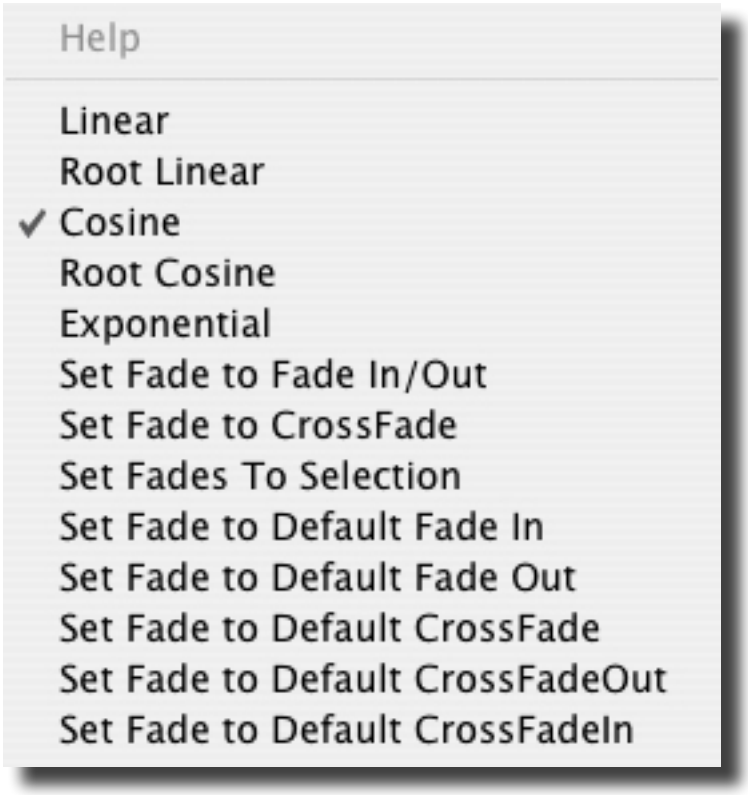
Next is the #2 cursor shape, displayed when the cursor is set to change the overall location of the fade. Placing the cursor in that location and click–dragging will re–locate the fade, "sliding it" earlier or later on the time line without changing the duration, edit event or gain law. Remember that you cannot move a fade past the head or tail of the underlying audio.

In position #3, the cursor is set for a duration change "toward the outside" of the Fade. Placing the cursor in that location and click–dragging will increase or decrease the duration of the fade without changing the overall location or gain law.These "outboard" handles *do* effect the location of the edit event, so it's recommended that you not use the outboard handle, employing the inboard handle instead as mentioned above. Section 4.1.4 below discusses edit events as they relate to controlling fade parameters.

4.1.2 Changing the shape of the Fade

By clicking the Control Point "bead," shown in Figure 4.1, and dragging it up or down, you can adjust the rate of change setting for the fade. Specifically, for all fade types except exponential, moving the Control Point adjusts the "dB down" while, for an exponential fade, the Control Point adjusts the "Alpha" or shape. In either case, as you make this change, the fade curve will dynamically change in response and the underlying audio will also change since you are affecting the gain across the fade event.

When the FadeTool is active, holding the control key brings up a contextual menu.



The FadeTool contextual menu

The FadeTool contextual menu offers the following choices for gain law or curve:

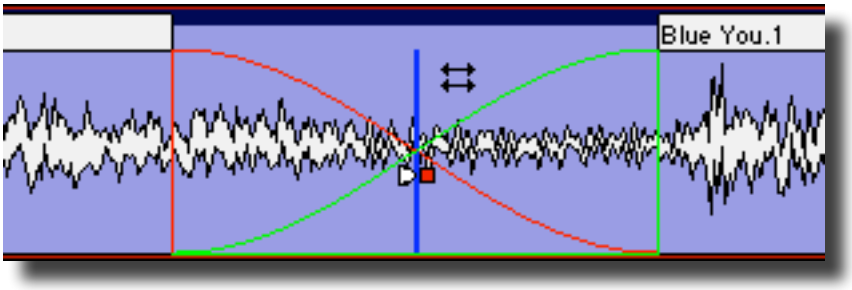
- Linear — default 6 dB down in the center
- Root Linear — 3 dB down in the center
- Cosine — default 3 dB down in the center
- Root Cosine — default 6 dB down in the center
- Exponential — provides very rapid reduction in gain across the Fade

Amarra Vinyl provides five fade shapes to allow you to produce a pleasing edit or transition, no matter what sort of material you have available. You can also use fades for less obvious purposes, such as applying a new Crossfade on an unwanted sound, changing the gain law to exponential, and adjusting the duration to "drop out" or suppress the unwanted sound. Though each gain law is useful in certain situations, the linear fade shape is the most widely applicable.

4.1.3 Changing the Fade Duration

In the Fade Tool contextual menu, the Set Fade to Selection forces the fade duration to match the duration of a selected region that encloses the fade. When a region is selected, this option stretches or shrinks the length of the Fade to match the position and length of the selected region. The contextual menu changes to reflect the currently selected Fade Type.

The Fade Tool functions also apply to a Crossfade. Figure 4.3 below shows the Fade Tool in Crossfade Mode. Notice that the cursor assumes a double horizontal arrow shape and both fades are highlighted, both green and red.



The Fade Tool in Crossfade Mode

By click–dragging left or right, the overall Crossfade location can be altered. By shift–click–dragging, notice the cursor shape changes to a vertical arrow, the Crossfade duration can be symmetrically altered. Holding the command key allows you to override symmetrical mode and alter duration with the left edge anchored while holding the option key provides the same override mode for the right edge.

4.1.4 Changing the Fade Type

The Fade Tool contextual menu also offers two choices for fade type. These choices, accessed by hold the control key while using the Fade Tool, allow you to change the context in which the fade will be used. For the purpose of CD preparation, Fade Ins and Fade Outs are fundamentally different from Crossfades. The difference is where the actual edit event occurs in the underlying audio and

this subtly but profoundly effects the accuracy of your Track marks and resulting metadata, since the edit event is where Amarra Vinyl places the Track marks in any of the automatic modes.

With a Crossfade, the edits occur at the very center of the two Black Fades (see section 3.8.1). Fade Ins and Fade Outs, on the other hand, are designed to be used as the transition to or from "Edited Black," where no audio is present on the time line. Use the Set Fade to Crossfade option when you expect to connect its associated segment to another segment for a seamless edit between segments.

The 'Set Fade to Default..." options force all fade parameters back to their appropriate defaults.

- Set Fade to Fade In/Out: forces parameters to the appropriate default Black Fade
- Set Fade to CrossFade: forces parameters to a default Crossfade
- Set In/Out Fade(s) to Selection: forces either a Black Fade or Crossfade to the duration and overall location of a selected region.
- Set Fade To Default...: changes the Fade(s) based on user defined pre–sets from the EDL > Edit Fade Mode.

When the Fade Tool is active, any change you make using the tool, to a Fade or to the underlying audio is real time. The default fade shape can be selected in the Editing Tools tab in Windows > Preferences.

4.2 Drag & Drop

4.2.1 Resequencing

For rapid assembly of program material, Amarra Vinyl provides three easy methods for automatically snapping to either 1, 2 or 3 seconds of Edited Black between segments.

4.2.1.1 AutoSpace All Segments

The first method is the Edit > AutoSpace All Segments command discussed in section 3.8.6 above.

4.2.1.2 Drag & Drop

The second method entails manually dragging CD Tracks. Dragging Tracks requires that the Show Track Bar preference in the EDL tab of Windows > Preferences be enabled. Once Track Bars are visible, click–hold on any song's Track Bar to select it, and drag it to the desired location. Existing Tracks "shuffle" into place and the dragged Track takes its place, where dropped, in the CD track sequence. The audio associated or "attached" to the marks shuffles along with the marks. The pause between an End of Track mark and a subsequent Start of Track mark are always considered to be part of that Track.

The Track Bar

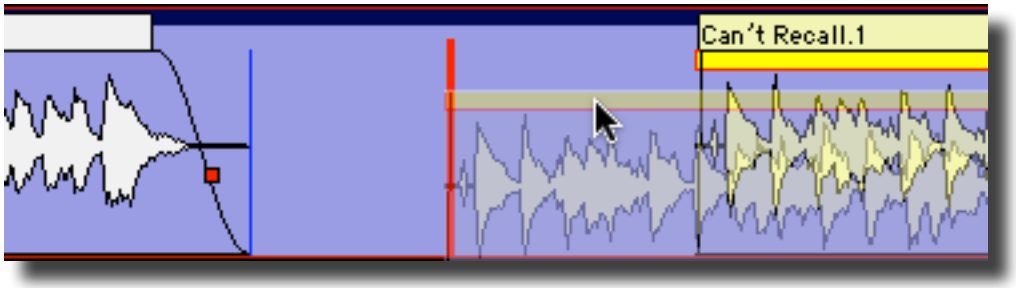
This same drag–to–resequence behavior is also available in the Windows > Mark Info dialog. Simply drag an entry in the track list to a new location to resequence Tracks.

4.2.1.3 Snap to Zone

The third method entails manually dragging and snapping segments to a pre–defined song timing. It is best to drag segments if you have not created Track marks to prevent unwanted mark relocation.

This drag and snap segments method of resequencing requires that the Snap to Zone preference in the Editing Tools tab of Windows > Preferences be enabled. Once the Snap Zone preference is set, click on a segment's Title Bar to select it. After it's selected, all you have to do is click–drag on its Drag Bar as you move its head close to another segment's tail. You will see either a vertical red or blue bar appear, visually indicating you are in the snap zone.

The Title Bar and Drag Bar



The red auto–spaced snap indicator

The blue flush snap indicator

The bold blue bar indicates a "flush" snap where, if you drop at that location, the two segments will be tightly butted with no space, no Edited Black in between. The bold red bar indicates an auto–spaced snap where, if you drop at that location, the two segments will have a precise, preset space between. The duration of the inter–segment spacing is determined by the AutoSpacing Duration selector in the Editing Tools tab of the Windows > Preferences window.

Drag and drop with autospacing is useful in conjunction with the Edit > Clear/Delete Selection commands to start with one long continuous segment, such as a consolidated complete mix, and quickly segment, space and resequence the individual songs.

Note that, when using this fully manual method, sequencing should be performed prior to mark placement. This will prevent erroneous repositioning of marks as your segments are shuffled.

4.2.2 Drag–Overlay

When you drag and drop one segment on top of another, with no modifier keys employed, one segment will overlay another when you drop it on top. The two segments coexist in the same location on the time line and sum together during playback. This feature is useful when used in conjunction with Text Mode, discussed in the next section, so you can individually control the overlapping segments. Also see section 4.3.2 below for creating a combo Project, a combination waveform plus text Project layout.

4.2.3 Drag–Insert & Ripple

Shift–dragging segments is another useful editing feature. With the shift key held down, the dragged segment is inserted when you drop it on top. In addition, "downstream" segments, those later on the time line, are pushed or "rippled" to the right, making room for the inserted segment.

4.2.3 Drag–Replace

When you command-drag and drop one segment on top of another, then the dragged segment replaces the existing audio where it's dropped. As with all editing in Sonic Studio's products, this move is non–destructive.

4.3 Text Mode

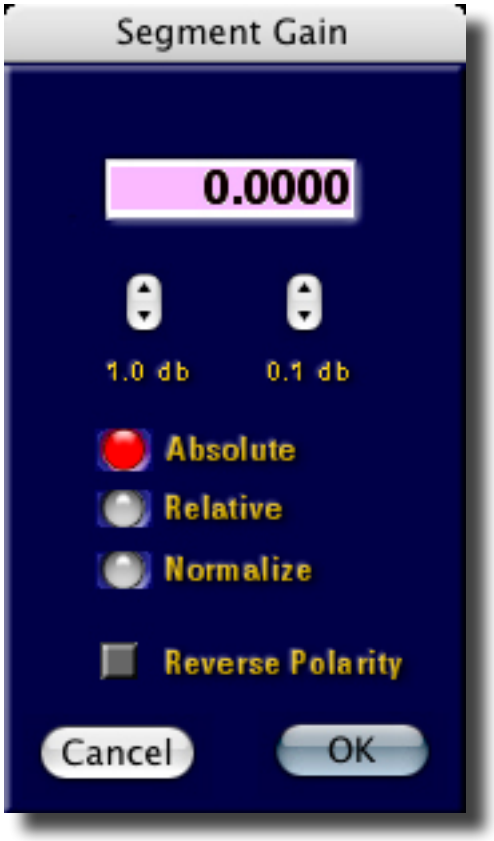
Text Mode provides a playlist view of the Panel's contents, with editable segment names along with editable start and end times. An editable Gain value, see section below, along with a non–editable Duration value are also shown. To view Text Mode, select the EDL > Show Text View command. To switch back to Waveform mode, select the EDL > Hide Text View command.

4.3.1 Gain Adjustment

Compiling audio from different sources usually makes it necessary to alter the amplitude of some of your source material. The last column in Text Mode displays the current gain of all segments. When Segments are opened or added to the EDL, the segment gain is nominally set to zero dB. By double-clicking on the Gain value of the selected segment, the Segment Gain modal dialog opens.

The Segment Gain dialog is also available via the Edit > Segment Gain… command for selected segments, and also via a segment's Title Bar contextual menu. Control–click on any Title Bar to

invoke the Segment Gain dialog. Other functions, like Reverse Polarity and Build Waveforms, are also available. As with other modal dialogs in soundBlade, gain changes will not be applied unless the OK button is clicked.



The Segment Gain dialog

The Segment Gain dialog offers several options for altering segment gain. It also provides polarity inversion.

The large central field lets you enter gain directly. Alternatively, course and fine adjustments are available via up/down arrows. Simply click the arrows to increment or decrement gain in 1.0 or 0.1 dB steps.

Segment Gain can be applied in two different ways. First, it can be applied as an 'Absolute' value, meaning that the entry in the gain field will be applied in place of any previous value. The value entered in the gain field will *replace* any previous state, ignoring the existing gain of that segment.

Alternatively, the gain can be applied as a 'Relative' value. In relative mode, the entry in the gain field will be added to or subtracted from the previous value. Positive values will be added to the previous state while negative values will be *subtracted from* the previous gain state.

A third 'Normalize' radio button is available. Choosing this option will cause the segment's absolute sample amplitude to be evaluated, after which the amount of headroom or surplus level below 0 dBFS will be entered in the central gain field. In other words, this function shows

how much gain can be added before digital clipping will occur. The value given is relative to the current gain state so, the normalize function is a subset of a relative gain adjustment.

Though not a gain function, a Reverse Polarity check box is available. This check box inverts the polarity of the selected segments.

Segment gain can be applied to multiple segments at once. Simply command–click on the desired segments in the Text View list, then open the Segment Gain window to make a change.

Changes in Segment Gain will be applied to all selected segments equally, as described above. This implies that, in relative mode, the gain changes will retain any relative loudness differences between selected segments. In normal use, Segment Gain is used on individual segments to make them play seamlessly or as desired. Once the entire show has been gain adjusted, then all segments can be selected and normalized, thus maximizing the amplitude for the whole program.

4.4 Gain Overlay Mode

As described in section 4.3.1 above, the gain of individual segments can be easily changed with the Segment Gain dialog. Amarra Vinyl offers another, global, time line–oriented approach to changing amplitude. Gain Overlay Mode can be used to change level independent of segments and fades and works as a master automated fader.

Gain Overlay Mode is enabled by clicking on the G button to the left of a Panel, and is available only when in Waveform Display Mode. When enabled, a red line appears superimposed on the waveform display. The waveform display's amplitude scale, along the left edge, switches to a different standard that ranges from -144 to +24 dB, the range of gain change available. Initially, the Gain Overlay is flat at the 0 dB setting.

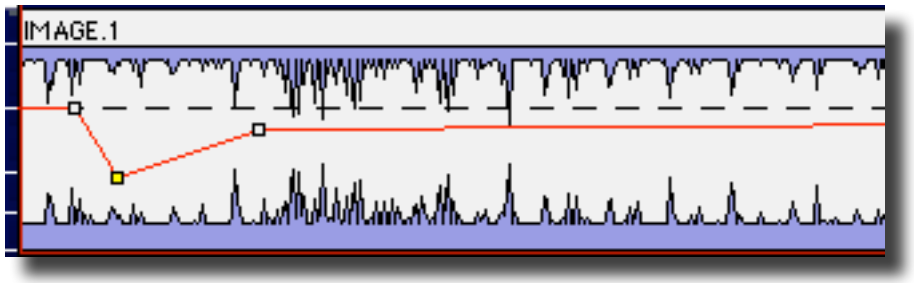
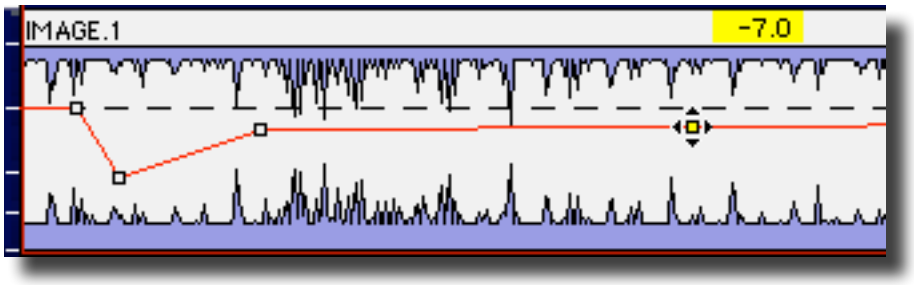


Figure 4.9: Gain Overlay function activated, showing the red Overlay and Nodes

To change gain, simply point at the desired time location and click on the Overlay. The cursor changes to a round shape and a square Node will appear. Nodes can only be added, deleted or modified while playback is stopped.

You can also place gain nodes with region selections or the Edit Point. To use this function, first click–drag within the waveform display to select a region. Then, select Edit > Create Gain Nodes to add two nodes at the "edges" of the Gain Overlay and the selected region. Because the Edit Point is really a zero duration selection, it can also be used to create a single gain node with the Create Gain Nodes command.

When you add a node, a yellow highlighted Gain call–out appears in theTitle Bar of the associated segment.



A newly created Gain Node with its Gain call–out

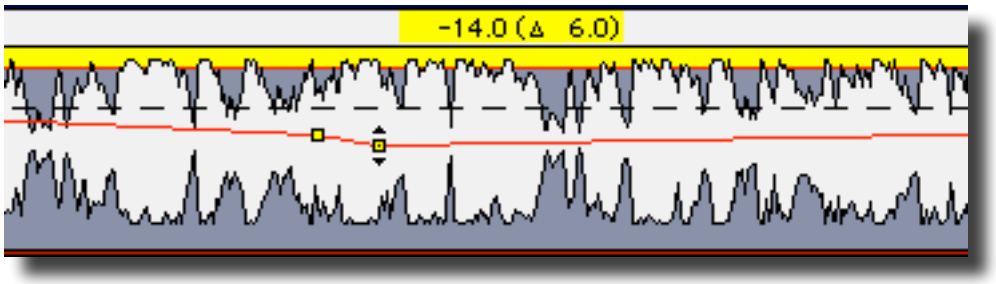
If you click–drag a Gain Node, it can be moved both horizontally and vertically. Dragging a Gain Node horizontally moves it to a different time location while dragging it vertically changes the gain. The current gain value of that node is continuously shown in the yellow Gain call–out.

When moving Gain Nodes vertically, the gain changes in steps of 1 dB. By holding the option key while dragging a Gain Node, the resolution of the gain change increases to 0.1 dB to provide fine control.

Note that gain changes between Gain Nodes follows a linear gain law. By adding multiple Nodes, other curves can be emulated. Unwanted Gain Nodes can be deleted by holding down the option key while clicking on the Node.

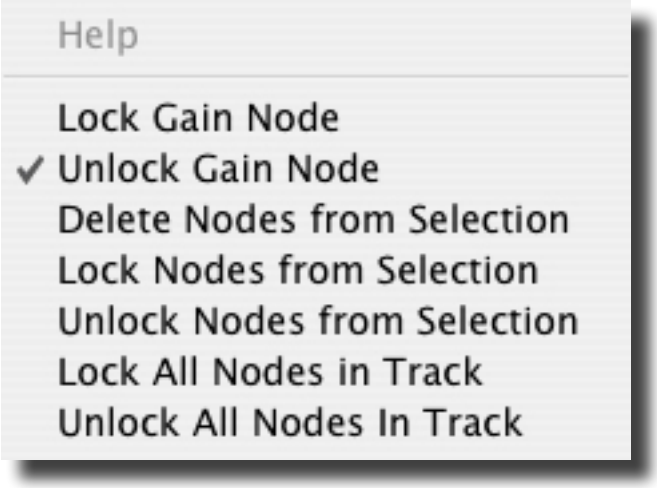
You can make changes to a group of Gain Nodes simultaneously. To do so, select a region that includes the Node on which you want to work. Then, select the EDL > Select Gain Nodes command. All selected Gain Nodes will fill with yellow to indicate their state. You can also shift–click to "gather" a collection of grouped Nodes.

When grouped, only the gain can be modified. When changing the gain of grouped Nodes, the Gain call–out shows both the current value and gain delta or difference from the original value. Also, when grouped, holding the option key for fine gain adjustment is disabled.



The Gain call–out for grouped Nodes

Once your Gain Overlay is configured according to taste, all or some Gain Nodes can be locked against unwanted changes. To do so, first click–drag to select a region containing the Gain Nodes you want to lock. Then, move the mouse over one of the selected Gain Nodes and control–click to invoke a contextual menu.



The Gain Node contextual menu

By default, the Unlock Gain Node option will be checked. To lock the selected Gain Nodes, click on the GainOverlayNode Locked option. The selected Gain Nodes will now turn red to indicate their locked status. Unlocking the Gain Nodes simply requires selecting the GainOverlayNode Unlocked option.

In the same contextual menu, Nodes can also be locked and unlocked for the whole Panel by selecting the Lock/Unlock All Nodes In Track options.

Delete Nodes from Selection deletes all Gain Nodes in the current selection. If no selection is made but one or more segments are selected, all nodes within the selected segment(s) will be deleted.

Once Gain Overlay is used, the gain changes stay active in the output of Amarra Vinyl, both during playback and Delivery. To temporarily bypass the Gain Overlay, select the EDL > Bypass Gain Overlay command. Also, the Gain Overlay can be put into bypass mode by option–clicking the "G" or Gain button on the left side of each Panel. In both cases, the Gain Overlay line will turn grey and the Gain button will turn yellow, both indicating the bypass state. Once in Bypass, Gain Overlay can only be activated again by selecting the same command, which changes to Activate Gain Overlay. When off or disabled, the Gain turns grey.

Note that, while in Gain Overlay Mode, all normal editing functions are disabled and only the gain nodes can be manipulated. Reverting to normal Editing can only be achieved by selecting the Hide Gain Overlay command.

4.5 Project Sample Rate

To the left of a Project's time line, a drop down menu is located for selection of the Project default sample rate. This menu has a simple function, to set the sample rate when making address calculations on the time line. Since, "under the hood," Amarra Vinyl uses samples per second as the counting method for all time code, time line and address calculations, sample rate becomes the basis on which all the above calculations are made. Amarra Vinyl converts all thirteen of the alternate, non–"samples" time standard choices, discussed in section 3.7.1, to samples when constructing a Project.

Note that the Project default sample rate has nothing to do with the sample rate of any audio interface used, nor does it impact the clocking of your system. It is only for locating segments on a Project's time line.

Chapter 5..... Recording Audio

In addition to assembling audio from existing sound files, Amarra Vinyl offers the functionality of recording audio from external audio sources. Supported file formats for recording are AIFF and broadcast WAV or BWF. Sample rate and resolution are limited by the capabilities of the available Core Audio hardware or your Series 300 I/O Processor. Audio can be recorded directly into any Panel, in either mono or stereo.

Note that audio is recorded as non-interleaved files when recording in AIFF or BWF format.

5.1 Four Steps to Recording

1 Open a new Project

Audio can only be recorded in Panels, so a Project must be open. Choose File > New to create a new Project or File > Open... to open an existing Project. By default, Amarra Vinyl records external audio from the first two input channels of the active interface, as defined in OS X's Audio MIDI Setup utility.

2 Set Recording Parameters

Choose Windows > New Sound file Preferences. Set the destination directory, filename, word length and file type for the sound file you wish to record. See section 5.2.1 below for more information.

3 Record Enable Panels

Record Enable the desired tracks for recording. To do this, click on the R button in the upper left corner. See section 5.2.2 for more explanation.

4 Start your recording

Initiate the recording of audio. To do this, use the Transport Controls at top left of the Project. Clicking on the green record button will start a recording. See chapter 5.2.3 for more information.

5.2 Audio Recordings

5.2.1 Selecting external input(s)

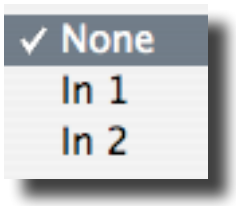
By default, Amarra Vinyl can record audio from the first two available inputs of the interface currently configured as input in Audio MIDI Setup. However, Amarra Vinyl can be configured to record from any valid input source by means of the Windows > Audio I/O Preferences window.

The Audio I/O Preferences window

The bottom half of this window shows the currently active audio interface as selected in Audio MIDI Setup.

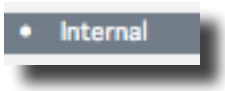
Note that virtualized or "aggregated" devices, as defined in OS version 10.4 and higher, appear as one recording interface.

In the area of the audio interface icon, the line inputs L1 to Ln are shown, together with a drop down menu selector. When one of the line input selectors are clicked, a list of all available inputs for that selected audio interface are shown. Selecting any available input from the audio interface re-maps that input to Amarra Vinyl's inputs used for recording external sources. It also relabels the output bus assigns on the Desk.



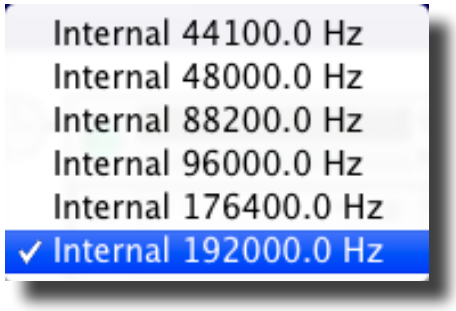
Input selectors

Amarra Vinyl's clock source should be checked as well. To do so, select either "internal" or "external" from the Master Clock source selectors.



Clock source selection

In addition, the sample rate must be set to match the incoming clock source, even when an external clock source is selected.



Sample rate selection

The settings in the Audio I/O Preferences window reflect the settings in Audio MIDI Setup at the instant you open the Audio I/O Preferences window. However, the information in Audio I/O Preferences are not dynamically updated if anything in Audio MIDI Setup are changed while the Audio I/O Preferences window is open. To make sure that the Audio I/O Preferences window accurately reflects the current setting of Audio MIDI Setup, press the "Re-Scan I/O" button. This updates the Audio I/O Preferences and re-loads the current settings from Audio MIDI Setup. To

open Audio MIDI Setup from within Amarra Vinyl, click the “Audio MIDI Setup…” button in the Audio I/O Preferences window.

Note that any new settings in the Audio I/O Preferences window come into effect immediately. However, only after saving the settings with the “save” button will the new settings be stored as defaults used for subsequent Amarra Vinyl sessions.

5.2.2 New Soundfile Parameters

You must specify where recorded files will be stored and in what format and resolution the recordings will be made. To set the sound file parameters or, to change the current parameters, select Windows > New Soundfile Preferences. The New Soundfile Parameters window appears.

The New Soundfile Parameters window showing AIFF recording format

To select the destination folder for recorded sound files, click on Set Folder to open a standard Mac OS browser and select the target destination folder. Then click OK to confirm your choices and return to the New Sound file Settings window.

Note that, although it is possible to select a destination for your sound files on external direct–attached or network–attached volumes, this is no guarantee it will work flawlessly. Please check that the necessary Quality of Service is supported throughout the entire virtual path to the selected volume. This is especially true of USB–attached mechanism. USB may not be suitable for high-resolution audio production.

Next, the default sound file prefix can be set in the “Name” field. Recorded sound files will be collectively placed in a folder carrying the same name as the sound file prefix. Additionally, in the “Take #” field, a numeric take number suffix can be entered that will be incremented for subsequent recordings, creating unique names for each file.

The word length and file type for the recording should also be set via the appropriate drop down menu. You do not have to close the New Soundfile Parameters window to save your settings.

When selecting BWF as recording format, the New Sound file Parameters window is extended by some extra fields

The New Sound file Parameters window for BWF recording format

The "Originator", "Reference" and "Date/Time" fields can be filled with up to 22 characters. The "Description" and "Coding History" fields each hold up to 120 characters. The standardized contents of these metadata fields are stored in the header of the BWF file.

- Originator — an ASCII string containing the name of the originator/producer of the audio file.
- Reference — Technically known as the "OriginatorReference," an ASCII string containing a non–ambiguous reference "allocated by the originating organization." The EBU has defined a format for the OriginatorReference field. For more information, see EBU Recommendation R99-1999[2].
- Date — Technically known as the "OriginationDate," ASCII characters containing the date of creation of the audio file. The format is "yyyy-mm-dd" (year-month-day).

Year is defined from 0000 to 9999, month is define from 1 to 12, day is defined from 1 to 28,29,30 or 31, while the separator between the items can be anything but it is recommended that one of the following characters is used:

1. - (hyphen)

2. _ (underscore)

3. : (colon)

4. (space)

5. . (stop or period)

- Time — Technically known as the "OriginationTime," ASCII characters containing the time of creation of the audio file. The format is "HH-MM-SS" (hours-minutes-seconds).

Hour is defined from 0 to 23, while minute and second are defined from 0 to 59. The separator between the items can be anything but it is recommended that one of the above characters.

- Description — An ASCII string containing a un–formatted description of the sequence. To help applications which only display a short description, it is recommended that a resumé of the description is contained in the first 64 characters, and the last 192 characters are use for details.
- Coding History — The Coding History field is usually filled in and appended by any application that creates and subsequently modifies a BWF sound file.

Finally, the optional "Edit Recording" check box enables files to be opened while their recording is in progress. This feature allows you to begin marking and making other editing decisions while a recording progresses. See section 5.2.6 below for more information.

Note that the sample rate of the sound file to be recorded is not set via this window. It is set in your host's Audio MIDI Setup. See section 5.2.1 above for more information.

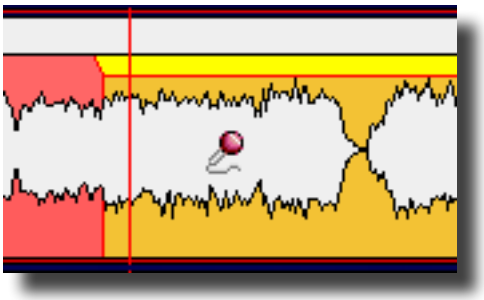
5.2.3 Track arming and enabling recording

To prepare audio for recording, any track you want to record audio into must be enabled or "armed" first. To arm the desired Panel(s), click on the Record Ready button, labeled "R," on the left of the corresponding Panel. To disarm a Panel, simply click the Record Ready button again and the Panel will return to "Safe" mode again.

HINT: Option + Clicking on the Record button enable both tracks with one click.

5.2.4 Initiating a recording

To initiate a recording, click the Record button in the Transport Controls to start the recording. The Playhead starts at the beginning of the time line or at the Edit Point if present. The Record buttons turns red, recording begins and, the backgrounds of the Panels in record along with their corresponding Record Ready buttons turn red while the cursor changes to a microphone symbol.



A Panel in record mode showing the "microphone" cursor

Once the recording is stopped, by either hitting the space bar or the Stop button in the Transport Controls, the newly recorded audio segment(s) are shown in the Panel(s) while Amarra Vinyl generates waveforms in the background.

If recordings replace any existing segments in the Panel, the original segment will be joined to the new recording with a default Crossfade.

Note that any existing SRPs, Track Marks or Gain Overlay nodes will be deleted by a recording. Since recording is non–destructive, any existing audio segments in a Panel that seem to be "overwritten" during recording are not physically erased from your designated volume, only the Edit Decision List has been modified. They can be reopened at any time. Alternatively, the original state of the Panels before the recording was started can easily be restored with the Edit > Undo command.

5.2.5 Manual punch in

It is also possible to "punch in" audio at any desired location within a Panel while playback is in progress. To punch into record, first arm the Panel(s) where the punch in is needed. Then, locate the Edit Point or Playhead in advance of the punch in point, providing 1 to 3 seconds of pre–roll, and commence playback by pressing the spacebar or the Play button on the Transport Controls. When the Playhead arrives at the desired punch in point, select Play > Record or click the Record button from the Transport Panel, and the punch will start. To stop the recording, either tap the space bar, select Play > Record or click the Record button again and the recording will stop, leaving the Playhead at the location where the punch out occurred.

5.2.6 Edit Recording

This option, located in the New Sound file Parameters window, allows opening, viewing and editing of the file being recorded during the recording. It should not be used in Amarra Vinyl.

Note that, when the Edit Recording option is selected, Amarra Vinyl uses about 15% more disk bandwidth for a stereo recording, so hard drive performance may be affected.

5.3 Preset a Recording Duration

When the length of a recording is known in advance, Amarra Vinyl can be set to record for a preset duration. This “timed” recording can be used for unattended recording, conserving disk space, or to replace parts of pre–existing material in one or more Panels.

5.3.1 Recording a Selection or Segment

Select a region of the desired length in the Panel(s) where recording should take place by click + drag to create a yellow-highlighted area that represents the length of your recording, then initiate the recording. When the recording is started, it will commence at the start of the selected region, and stop automatically at the end of the selected region. This is useful for recording one side of an album.

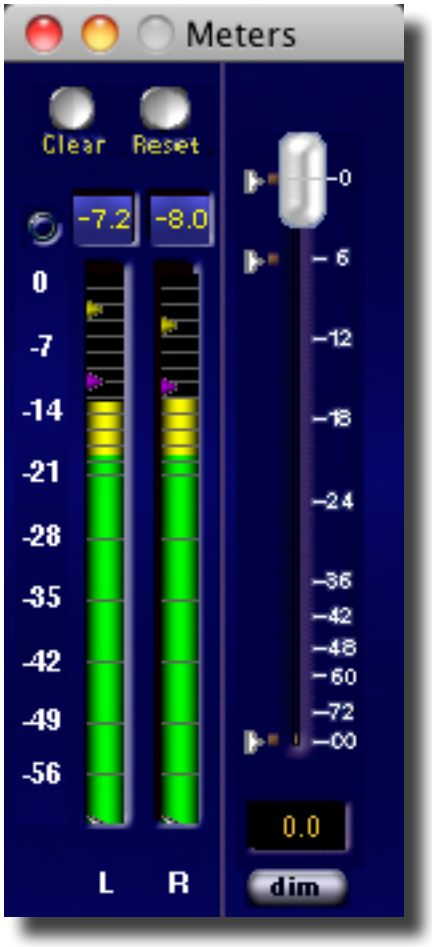
Playback commences at the start of the selection. Amarra Vinyl will drop into recording, punching out at the next SRP. This repeats itself until the end of the selection is reached. Playback stops and the areas marked by SRPs are replaced by newly created sound files. If recording was still active when the end of the selection was reached (an uneven number of SRPs was included in the selection), recording will stop at the end of the selection as well.

Note that for this method of “timed” recording, Amarra Vinyl only uses the SRPs in the top Panel being played and recorded. If SRPs are set in any other Panel that is armed for recording, they will be ignored and recording in those Panels will take place at the same position as in the top Panel being played.

After recording, the SRPs will be erased and in their place, default crossfades will connect the newly recorded segments to any existing audio segments.

6.1 Meters Window

The “Meters window” provides a Master section, the final output control for your Project. The Master section window can be opened by selecting the Windows > Meters command.



The Master section

The Master section resembles a master fader section of a typical mixing desk and features a number of elements. Most important, at right, is a Master fader.

The Master Fader controls output amplitude across all output buses. It has a amplitude scale at right, with three triangular hot spots, at left, for rapid gain setting. Clicking on a hot spots instantly moves the fader to the corresponding preset position. Hot spot values are not adjustable.

Below the fader is a gain call out field where the gain setting of the fader can be manually entered as a numerical value. To alter the master fader’s position, a new value can be manually

entered in this field and, after confirming the new value with the Enter key, the fader will move to the corresponding position.

Also, at the bottom a “dim” button is found. Clicking the dim button immediately moves the fader to the predefined position of -20 dB, returning to it’s original position when the dim button is disengaged. When the dim button is engaged, it’s label color changes to red to indicate that dim mode is active.

To the left of the Master fader is a section from which the window gets its name, the bus meters. Above each meter is a field showing the numerical value of the current instantaneous amplitude. When an overload occurs, these boxes turn red.To clear the overload display, click on the indicator and the red surround will disappear.

Finally, at the top left of the Master section are two more buttons. Clicking the Clear button clears the peak values for the numerical level indicators, as well as any overloads indicated. Clicking Reset resets the peak-hold of the meters, as well as any peak-hold value.

For all menus, the keyboard equivalents for all commands are listed in Appendix 1. Also note that the word folder is used to describe disk directories, in keeping with Mac OS tradition. Finally, all edits in Amarra Vinyl are both instantaneous and non–destructive. The only exception is the File > Save Reversed command, which "renders" or creates a new sound file of the reversed material.

7.1 The Amarra Vinyl Menu

The Amarra Vinyl Menu

7.1.1 About Amarra Vinyl

Opens a dialog box describing the version and build numbers of your Amarra Vinyl application. Clicking on the dialog box closes it.

7.1.2 Preferences...

Some of the functions and commands within Amarra Vinyl can be changed to adhere to your preferred values or behavior. All of these preferences can be adjusted in the menu Amarra Vinyl > Preference Window. See Section 7.8.5 for more information on setting Preferences.

7.1.3 Services

The Services menu item provides access to Mac OS X's system-wide services.

7.1.4 Hide Amarra Vinyl

Use the Hide Amarra Vinyl menu item to hide Amarra Vinyl and all of its open windows, allowing you access to other programs running in Mac OS X. Clicking on the Amarra Vinyl icon in your Dock returns Amarra Vinyl to view

7.1.5 Hide Others

Use the Hide Others menu item to hide all visible applications except Amarra Vinyl allowing you to focus on Amarra Vinyl alone. Clicking on any icon in the doc will return that application to view.

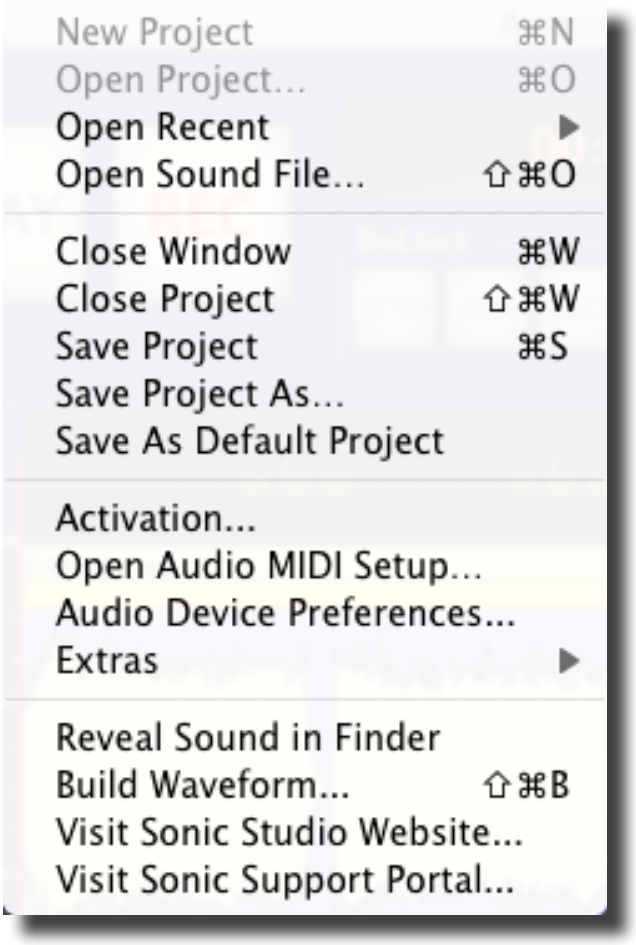
7.1.6 Show All

The Show All menu item unhides all running programs in Mac OS X.

7.1.7 Quit Amarra Vinyl

Use the Quit Amarra Vinyl menu item to quit Amarra Vinyl and close all open documents. You will be prompted to save any unsaved work before Amarra Vinyl exits.

7.2 The File Menu



The File menu

7.2.1 New Project

Selecting New Project from the File menu will open a new, empty Project. Any currently active Projects are unaffected but moved to the background. Amarra Vinyl allows you to have as many open Projects but, when the application runs out of RAM, it will begin to use virtual memory, significantly slowing down the application.

7.2.2 Open Project

A Project file lets you save your editing work in a set of files, along with most of the editing metadata you added. An additional feature of a Project is that you can save your edit decisions without committing them back to a DDP file set. The Project file saves all segment names, SRPs, marks and edits and, they are all restored upon re–opening that Project.

Selecting File > Open Project brings up a standard Mac OS file browser. Locate the requested Project file and select it to open the Project in a new window.

7.2.3 Open Recent

With this menu, a list of recently opened Projects and sound files is shown. Selecting one of those files will re-open it.

If you hold down the option key prior to accessing this menu command, it divides the resulting list into Project files first and sound files second, with a divider in between. The files appear in the list with the most recently used files at the top, in the order they were opened.

Finally, if you select a sound file from this menu without any target Projects open, Amarra Vinyl will create a new (default) Project and open the sound file into that Project.

7.2.4 Open Sound File...

This command opens a Mac OS file browser, allowing you to select any sound file recognized by Amarra Vinyl. This includes AIFF, WAV and BWF files along with SD2 or Sound Designer II files with region definitions. See section 6.9.4.4 for more information on importing SD2 files. Amarra Vinyl is also able to open audio files by dragging and dropping the files into the top Panel of a Project.

7.2.5 Close Window

This command closes the currently active window. This can be a Project, the Mark Info window or, the Preferences window. Upon closing a Project that contains unsaved changes, Amarra Vinyl will open a dialog asking for changes to be saved, discarded or offering to cancel the close window operation.

7.2.6 Close Project

This command closes the currently active window. Upon closing a Project that contains unsaved changes, Amarra Vinyl will open a dialog asking for changes to be saved, discarded or offering to cancel the close window operation.

7.2.7 Save Project

This will save the current state of the active Project. It is saved with its current name and path. This command will overwrite any previously saved Project file with that name and path.

7.2.8 Save Project As...

This command lets you save a copy of the active Project under a new file name or different path. Amarra Vinyl allows you to choose either a destination folder or, you can navigate to an existing folder. If the destination is empty, Amarra Vinyl simply writes the audio and/or metadata files as directed. If, however, the destination folder is not empty, Amarra Vinyl alerts you that a potential conflict exists to overwrite files and asks for more direction.

7.2.9 Save As Default Project

This command save the foreground Project as the default document layout when new Projects are created. Since this is a literal "save as," you should always deploy an empty Project, without any sound files opened into the Project, before you invoke this command.

7.2.10 Activation...

This command opens the Amarra Vinyl Activation window.

7.2.11 Audio MIDI Setup...

This command opens the Audio MIDI Setup utility from within Amarra Vinyl, allowing you to configure your clock source and sample rate.

7.2.12 Audio Device Preferences

This command opens Amarra Vinyl's Audio I/O Preferences window.

7.2.13 Extras

7.2.13.1 Enable Debugging

This command outputs all Desk and Output Desk settings to the Console Log.

7.2.13.2 Open Console Log

Invoking this command launches the Console utility and opens the log associated with soundBlade SE. Console is the central repository for reports from running processes and applications. While soundBlade SE is running, it outputs information to Console and that information, such as details on installed options, system status and actions undertaken, then appears in the log. Also, at the command of the user, certain information regarding EDLs or Projects can be output to the log as well. See the following sections for more information on user selectable printing to the log file.

7.2.13.3 Send Crash Report

This command is designed to help Sonic Studio to diagnose problem you may be experiencing with your installation. It collects the most recent crash report for soundBlade SE and sends it via your internet connection to Sonic Studio.

7.2.14 Reveal Sound in Finder

This command requires a single selected segment. As the name implies, Reveal Sound In Finder switches context to the Finder and opens a new window with the source sound file highlighted.

7.2.15 Build Waveform...

Files originating from a non–Sonic Studio product includes sample values but do not contain the amplitude-specific metadata needed to draw our very detailed audio time versus amplitude "waveforms." If you would like to add waveforms while working with your sound files and have unchecked the default Windows > Preferences > EDL > View > Background Waveforms preference, you must select the Build Sound Waveform... command.

First, select the parent sound file by clicking on the segment's Title Bar. The Title Bar will turn yellow to show that it is selected. Then, select the File > Build Sound Waveform... command.

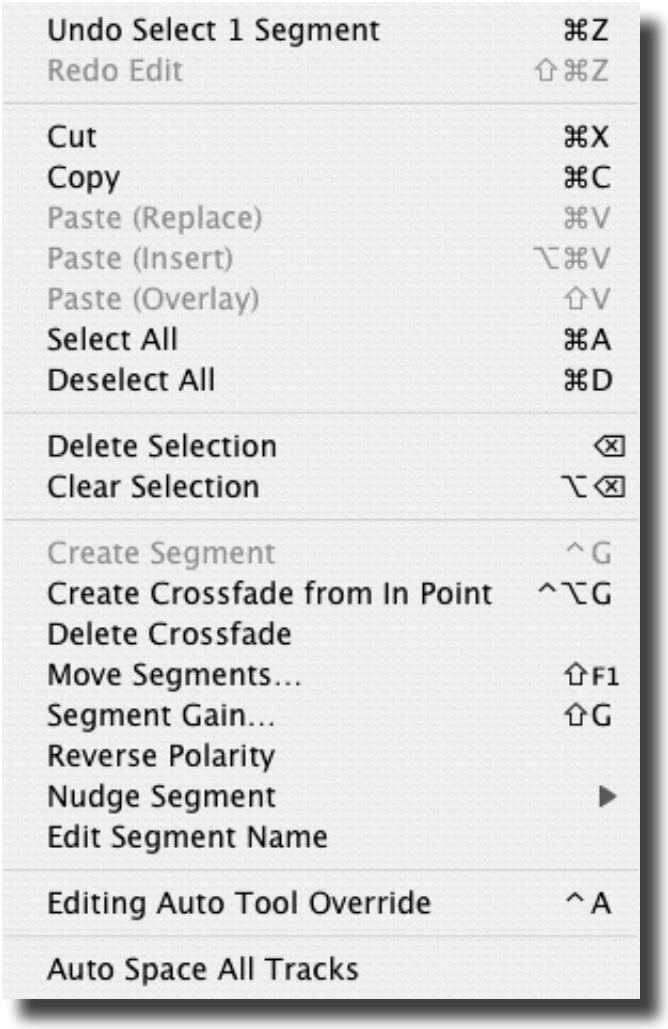
7.2.16 Visit Sonic Studio Website

Selecting Visit Sonic Studio Website... from the File menu launches your default web browser and directs you to **www.sonicstudio.com**.

7.2.17 Visit Support Portal

Selecting Visit Support Portal... from the File menu launches your default web browser and directs you to **http://www.sonicstudio.com/sonic/support/sonic_portal**

7.3 The Edit Menu



The Edit menu

7.3.1 Undo (action)

This command reverts the last command executed. For clarification, the Undo command also appends the last action performed to the menu name.

Amarra Vinyl provide an almost unlimited number of undos. The only limiting factor is the amount of RAM which, when completely used, will force the operating system to use virtual memory. This will slow down the operation of Amarra Vinyl.

Note that some individual commands actually perform several functions “behind the scenes” though to you, the user, it appears to be only one function. For that reason, you may have to Undo several times to recover a state that was reached with a single user command.

7.3.2 Redo (action)

This command reverts the last undo command, reinstating the last command performed. Additionally, for clarification the Undo command in this menu shows the last action undone.

7.3.3 Cut

The Cut command operates on a region within Edit Points as well as selected regions or segments, removing the defined item from the Project and placing it in Amarra Vinyl's "Clipboard." The Clipboard is a temporary memory location reserved by the operating system for each running application.

7.3.4 Copy

The Copy command operates on a region within Edit Points as well as selected regions or segments, copying the defined item from the Project and placing it in Amarra Vinyl's Clipboard. Unlike the Cut command, the Copy command leaves the defined item intact instead of deleting it after copying the selection to the Clipboard.

7.3.5 Paste (Replace / Insert / Overlay)

The Paste command inserts the content of the Clipboard into the Project, replacing, in order of choice, either:

1. A region within Edit Points
2. Selected regions or segments
3. From the Edit Point position

...for the duration of the audio currently of the Clipboard.The inserted content is placed between Crossfades and the Edit Point is moved, for visual reference, to the end of the inserted material.

7.3.6 Select/Deselect All

These commands select or deselect all segments or regions in the current Project.

7.3.7 Delete Selection

If a region or segment is selected, this command will delete the defined item. It will then "slip" or move left any audio after the deleted region or segment, filling in the space formerly occupied by the selected segment or region. A Crossfade is placed to transition across the deletion.

Note that, as with all editing in Amarra Vinyl, if both an In and Out Point are present, and the Out point is after the In Point, then they take precedents over both selected region and segments.

If only an In Point is present, then the command will not work. Finally, if both an In and Out Point are present, the Out point is after the In Point, and the edit points are inside "Edited Black," the empty area between segments, then that region defined by the edit points will be deleted and "downstream" audio will be moved left.

7.3.8 Clear Selection

Clear Selection works similarly to the Delete Selection command. The Clear Selection command clears the selected segment, region or area defined by Edit Points, but does not move any other audio on the time line.

7.3.9 Delete Selection

This command deletes the current selection or selected segments. The outer edges of the selection are joined with a default crossfade and all subsequent audio is shifted relatively.

7.3.10 Clear Selection

This command clears the current selection or selected segments, leaving all audio in place and replacing the audio to be cleared with digital silence. The edges of the cleared area are faded out and in with default crossfades.

7.3.11 Create Crossfade/Create Segment

This command is context sensitive and it's appearance in the menu will change according to the current Panel's state. It either creates a new crossfade from the current Cursor's position when no selection is made, or it creates a new segment at the place of the selection when a selection is made. This command uses crossfade defaults when creating crossfades.

7.3.12 Create Crossfade from In Point/Create Segment from In & Out Point(s)

As with the previous commands, this command is context sensitive and it's appearance in the menu will change according to the current Panel's state. It either creates a new crossfade from the current In Points position when no Out Point is seen, or it creates a new segment at the area included by a set In and Out Point. This command uses crossfade defaults when creating crossfades.

7.3.13 Delete Crossfade

The Delete Crossfade command deletes all "frivolous" Crossfades, ones that cause no audible change in the underlying audio, from the selected region. Superfluous Crossfades are usually created with the Create Crossfade command, discussed in the previous section and, after an extensive editing session, the Delete Crossfade command will clear any visual clutter, making it easier to see the operative edits.

7.3.14 Move Segments...

The Move Segment command allows the user to move one or more segments to another location on the time line. Selecting this command opens the Move Segments modal dialog, which shows the current position of the Playhead or start of the first selected segment.

Entering a new start time and clicking the Move button causes the head of the first selected segment to move to the new location. All selected segments will also more by the same amount, maintaining their relative position to each other.

Additionally, this dialog offers three extra options. By clicking the Where button, you can load either the current position of the Playhead or the location of extant In point or Out Points, all from a drop down menu. Then, by clicking the Move button, the segment(s) shift to the new location. The SRP button lets you load the current position of any extant SRPs, also from a drop down menu.

The Move button moves the defined item to the location shown in the dialog's time code address. Clicking the Cancel button leaves the selected segments at their original position.

7.3.15 Segment Gain...

This command invokes the Segment Gain dialog. For more detailed information on the Segment Gain dialog, See .

7.3.16 Reverse Polarity

The Reverse Polarity command inverts the polarity of the selected segment(s) in all selected Panels. Segments with inverted polarity acquire a small, bright red dot in the upper left corner of their Title Bar to visually remind you of their inverted status.

Note that, to change the polarity relationship between a stereo pair, this command must be applied to only one channel of the pair. To do this, change the Edit Group Selector of one Panel, located on the left edge of both Panels, from the default stereo setting to mono. To read more about Edit Group Selectors, refer to section 4.7 for more information.

7.4.17 Nudge Segment Left/Right

The Nudge Segment commands move or "nudge" the selected segment(s) left or right, earlier or later respectively, on the time line by a predefined value. The default "Nudge B" value used is

defined in the Time Display tab of Preferences window. See section 6.9.5 for more information on the Time Display preferences.

7.3.18 Edit Segment Name

When a segment is selected, choosing the Edit Segment Name command allows the user to edit the name of the segment as it appears in the Title Bar, and in Text Mode view. As with all actions in a Project, changing the Segment name has no effect on the underlying referenced sound file. This command is equivalent to double clicking on the Title Bar to change a segment's name.

7.3.19 Editing Auto Tool Override

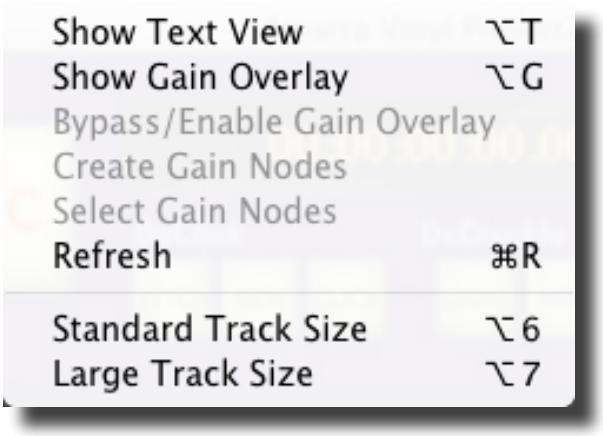
This commands toggles the Editing Auto Tools state, either enabled or disabled. See section 6.9.6 for more information on the EDL preferences.

7.3.20 Auto Space All Segments/Tracks

The AutoSpace function offers a simple but effective tool to change all pauses between tracks to a pre-defined value. Simply select Edit > AutoSpace all Segments and all segments will be moved on the time line, with equal space between according to the Preference > Editing Tools > AutoSpacing Duration setting.

If you have Track marks already placed in the Project, the command name changes contextually from Auto Space All Segments to Auto Space All Tracks. See sections 3.8.6 and 4.2.1 above for practical discussions about the autospacing function.

7.4 The EDL Menu



The EDL menu

7.4.1 Show/Hide Text View

The Show/Hide Text View command toggles the display of the selected Panel between Text Mode and Waveform Mode views.

7.4.2 Show/Hide Gain Overlay

This command forces the selected Panel to show or hide the Gain Overlay feature. The Gain Overlay is only visible in Waveform Mode, and is shown as a thin red line superimposed on the waveform display. Projects saved with Gain Overlay will open with Gain Overlay visible upon reopening.

Note that, although Gain Overlay may not be visible, when activated it is always active in the audio output signal path. Only the EDL > Bypass Gain Overlay command will bypass any Gain Overlay functionality. See section 6.3.3 below for more information on the Bypass Gain Overlay command.

7.4.3 Bypass/Enable Gain Overlay

This command bypasses or engages the Gain Overlay function. When in bypass, the Gain Overlay line in the waveform display turns grey and the corresponding Gain Overlay Button(s) on the left side of each Panel turn yellow.

Note that the Bypass/Enable Gain Overlay function can only be selected when Gain Overlay is shown. Option–clicking on a Gain Overlay Button will also bypass the Gain Overlay function.

7.4.4 Create Gain Nodes

With Gain Overlay enabled and a region of the time line selected, this command creates Gain Overlay nodes at the boundaries of the region. To use this function, first click–drag within the waveform display to select a region. Then, select Edit > Create Gain Nodes to add two nodes at the "edges" of the Gain Overlay and the selected region.

Because the Edit Point is really a zero duration selection, it can also be used to create a single gain node with the Create Gain Nodes command. For more detailed information on working with the Gain Overlay, see section 4.5 above.

7.4.5 Select Gain Nodes

This command selects all Gain Nodes contained within the currently selected segment(s) or region. Selected Gain Nodes can then be subject to simultaneous changes such as gain setting, lock state, or deletion.

For more information on working with Gain Overlay mode, see section 4.4 above.

7.4.6 Refresh

The Refresh command redraws the current waveform display for the selected Panel. This command is especially useful after rebuilding the waveform files of one or more segments, to force the waveform display to display the updated information.

7.4.7 Standard/Large Track Size

The Standard and Large Track Size commands resize the selected Panel(s) to standard or large vertical size. Large sized Panels are two times as tall as standard size, offering a better display with larger display or desktop settings. A Large Panel also lists more segments in Text Mode.

7.5 The Play Menu

The Play menu

7.5.1 Play From Selection

This command starts playback from the beginning of a selected region. If no region is selected, then playback starts at the Edit Point. If the Edit Point is not available, playback commences at the start of the first segment in the Project. This command is equivalent to tapping the Spacebar on the keyboard. The Play From Selection command will continue to play until either the Spacebar is hit again or the Playhead reaches "midnight" (23:59:59:74).

7.5.2 (Play) Selection

This command plays a selected region or segments. Whereas the Play From Selection command mentioned in section 7.4.1 above will continue to play until stopped, the play Selection command stops automatically at the end of the selection.

7.5.3 (Play) From Playhead

In normal operation, when you tap the Spacebar to start playback, the Playhead will jump to the Edit Point or, the start of the file if there is no Edit Point, and begin playback. The Play From Playhead command emulates a tape transport, with playback instead starting at the current Playhead location.

7.5.4 Repeat Play

If there is a selected region, the Repeat Play command will repeatedly play the region until stopped. If there is not a selected region, Amarra Vinyl will repeatedly play the entire Panel. Repeat playback continues until you stop play with the menu command or by hitting the Spacebar.

7.5.5 Stop All

This command stops playback and/or recording and is equivalent to tapping the Spacebar during playback or clicking on the Stop button in the Transport Bar.

7.5.6 Mute Track

This command mutes the selected track(s) panel in the Project window.

7.5.7 Solo Track

This command mutes the selected track(s) panel in the Project window.

7.5.8 Monitor Input

This command switches to listen to the input of the selected track(s) panel in the Project window.

7.5.9 Monitor Output

This command switches to listen to the output of the selected track(s) panel in the Project window.

7.5.10 Record Arm

This command sets the selected track panel(s) to record ready.

7.5.11 Record

This command puts Amarra Vinyl into record mode.

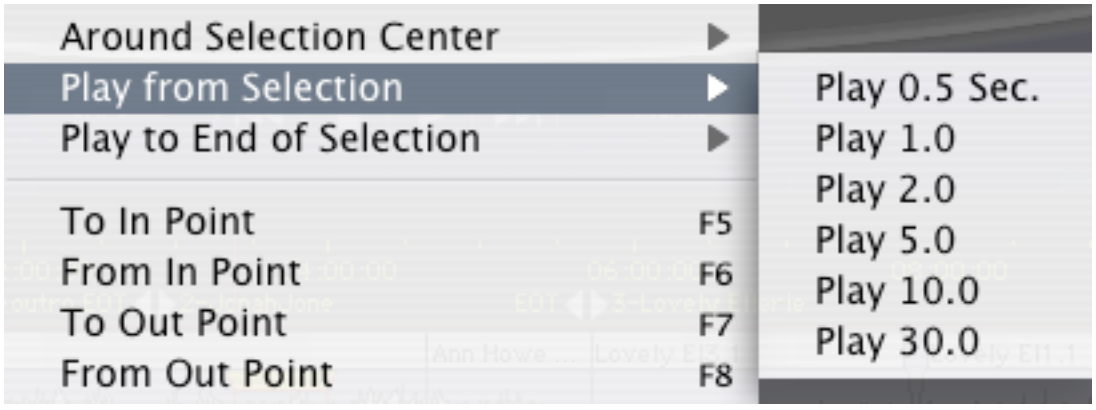
7.5.12 Around Selection Center

This command plays a section of sound centered around a selected region. When you choose Play Around Selection Center, a submenu appears, allowing you to select the length of playback time.

Play Around Selection Center submenu

7.5.13 Play from Selection

Like the Play Around Selection Center discussed in section 6.4.6 above, this command requires that you first select a region. Also, this command offers a submenu with duration choices for playback. Unlike Play Around Selection Center, this command begins playback at the left edge of the selection and continues, for the specified duration.

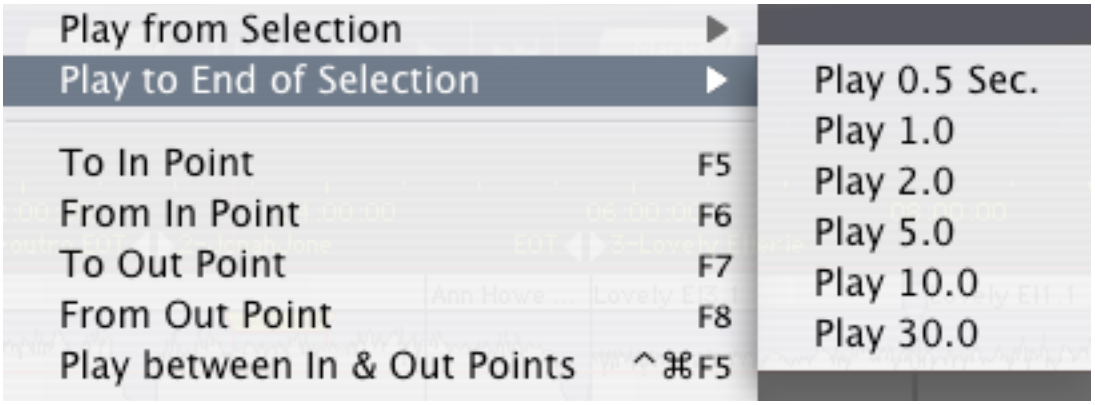


Play from Selection

7.5.14 Play to End of Selection

This command is the opposite of the Play from Selection command discussed in section 6.4.7 above, except that playback ends at the trailing edge or right side of a selected region. If there is

not a selected region, playback ends at the Edit Point. This command also offers a submenu with a number of choices for the duration of the playback.



Play to End of Selection submenu

7.5.15 Move Playhead

This command lets you place the Playhead at a specific location on the time line. When you select this menu item, the Move Playhead modal dialog appears.

The Move Playhead dialog

When you enter a new time code address in the Move Playhead dialog and click Move, the Playhead will jump to the new location. Besides manually entering a new location, you can also use the Where button to load the address of the In or Out Point, if present, while the SRP button loads the locations of any existing SRPs. Clicking the Cancel button leaves the Playhead at its original location.

Note that, when the Playhead is visible by disabling the Play > Hide Playhead When Stopped toggle, you can hover the cursor over the Playhead's location, either in the time line or Panels, the cursor changes shape to a sine wave–with–vertical line. Once in that mode, you can click–drag the Playhead to a new location.

7.5.16 Hide Playhead When Stopped

This command is somewhat of a misnomer in that it toggles, on or off, the ability to drag the Playhead to a new location when stopped. A check mark appears next to this menu item when this function is disabled.

This command applies to relocating the Playhead in either a Panel or on the time line, and is useful if you find yourself grabbing the Playhead accidentally while attempting to edit or modify some other object in a Project. Even with this command enabled (checked), you can always double click in the time line to relocate the Playhead and begin playback at that location.

7.6 The Mark Menu

Track Start Mark F9
Track End Mark F10
Delete Mark ⌘F12
Lock Marks from Selection
Unlock Marks from Selection
Lock All Marks
Unlock All Marks
Analog Black to Marks...
Edited Black to Marks ⌥⌘F9
Edited Black to Start Marks ⌘F9

The Mark menu

7.6.1 Track Start Mark

The Track Start Mark command inserts a Start of Track Track mark at the location of the Edit Point.

7.6.2 Track End Mark

The Track End Mark command inserts an End of Track Track mark at the location of the Edit Point.

7.6.3 Delete Mark

The Delete Mark command is used to remove existing Track marks. If a region is selected in a Panel, all of the Track marks inside the selection are deleted. If no region is selected, this command will remove a Track mark if the Edit Point is at the exact time location of that mark.

7.6.4 Lock Marks from Selection

The Lock Marks from Selection command is used to lock Track marks to the time line. This command locks all Track marks inside a selected region. Once locked, mark locations cannot be modified until they are unlocked. This command is equivalent to clicking the Lock button, if disabled, in the Track Info tab of the Windows > Mark Info window.

Note that this command does not affect the ability to change Title, emphasis state, ISRC or SCMS metadata associated with a mark. Also note that this command does not attach marks to audio segments. Editing any audio with locked Track marks will change the time relationship between those marks and the associated audio.

7.6.5 Unlock Marks from Selection

The Unlock Marks from Selection command is used to unlock Track marks within a selected region.

7.6.6 Lock All Marks

This command locks all Track marks on the time line, regardless of selected regions or segments. Once locked, the location of Track marks cannot be altered until they are unlocked.

7.6.7 Unlock All Marks

This command unlocks all Track marks on the time line.

7.6.8 Analog Black to Marks

This function measures the amplitude and duration of the audio in a selected region, placing End of Track and Start of Track marks in locations that approximate the end of one track and beginning of the next. Both amplitude and duration are user defined. The default amplitude is set in the Editing Tools tab of the Windows > Preferences window.

When invoking this function, the Analog Black to Marks modal dialog appears. In the dialog, the default parameters can be changed, after which the Analog Black to Marks function is started by selecting OK. By clicking on the Cancel button, the operation is stopped without further action.

Note that the results of the Analog Black to Marks function is never as accurate as the Edited Black to Marks function, discussed in section 7.5.11 below. The accuracy of the mark placement depends entirely on the accuracy of the parameters used so, you may want to zoom in and, with the Show Track Scale in dB preference set (Editing Tools tab of the Windows > Preferences window), visually estimate amplitudes of your fade outs and noise floor. The result of the Analog Black to Marks function should always be checked for errors and unintended placement.

7.6.9 Edited Black to Marks

The Edited Black to Marks command automatically places Start of Track Track marks at the beginning and end of all Fade Ins and Fade Outs respectively. To use the Edited Black to Marks command, you must first select either segments or a region. The presence of End of Track Marks makes it a bit less predictable when using the Track Bar for resequencing but, the presence of End of Track Marks means that there *will* be a countdown on the player's display when the resulting CD is played back.

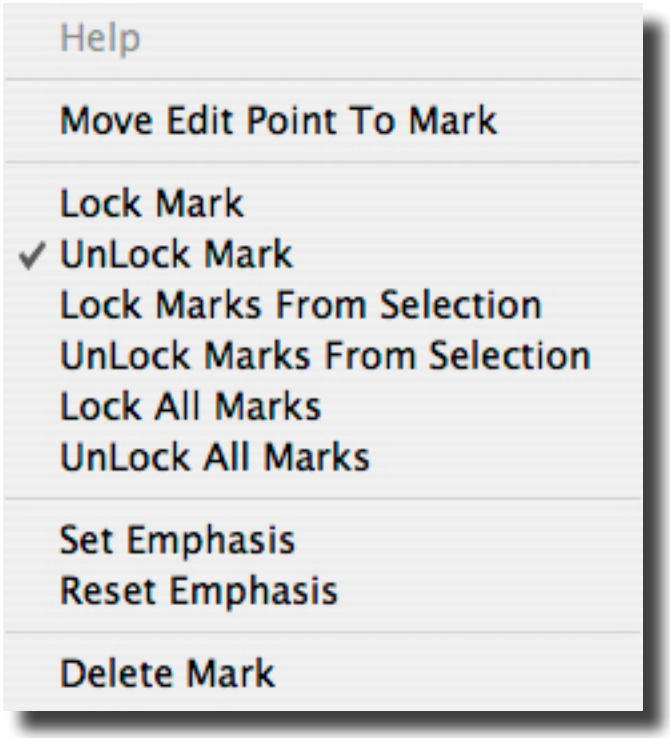
7.6.10 Edited Black to Start Marks

The Edited Black to Start Marks command automatically places Start and End of Track Track marks at the beginning and end of all Fade Ins and Fade Outs respectively. To use the Edited Black to Marks command, you must first select either segments or a region.

Because only Start of Track Marks are created, it makes it very easy to resequence using the Track Bar. On the other hand, the absence of End of Track Marks means that there will be *no countdown* on the CD player's display when the resulting disc is played back.

7.6.11 The Mark Contextual Menu

By control–clicking on a mark, a contextual menu appears. This menu provides choices similar to the Mark main menu, and allows you to modify the behavior of a mark without using this pull-down menu.



The Mark contextual menu

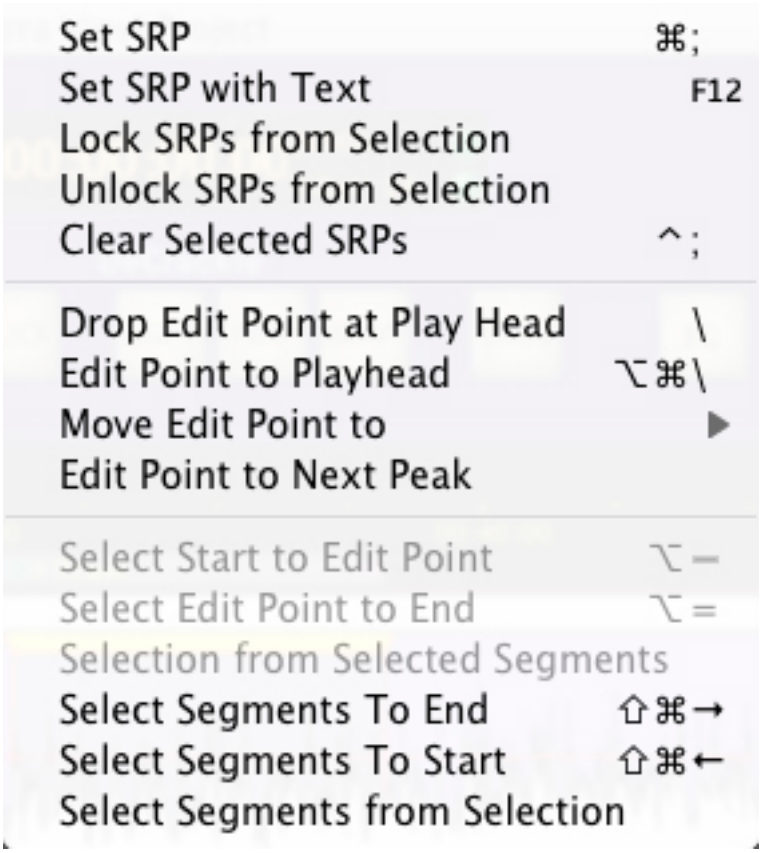
Move Edit Point To Mark: This command moves the Edit Point to the current Mark.

Lock/UnLock Mark commands: These commands are discussed above in this section.

Set/Reset Emphasis: Also available in the Mark Info window, these commands flip the state of the AES/EBU emphasis bit for the current mark.

Delete Mark: This command deletes the current mark.

7.7 The Selection Menu


Set SRP ⌘;
Set SRP with Text F12
Lock SRPs from Selection
Unlock SRPs from Selection
Clear Selected SRPs ^;
Drop Edit Point at Play Head \
Edit Point to Playhead ⌥⌘\
Move Edit Point to
Edit Point to Next Peak
Select Start to Edit Point ⌥–
Select Edit Point to End ⌥=
Selection from Selected Segments
Select Segments To End ⇧⌘→
Select Segments To Start ⇧⌘←
Select Segments from Selection

The Selection menu

7.7.1 Set SRP

This command places an SRP or Selection Reference Point in the selected Panel at the location of the Playhead or Edit Point, if play is stopped.

7.7.2 Set SRP with Text

When this alternate command is selected, the SRP is placed as in section 7.7.12 above except the text field that accompanies all SRPs is activated and the text insertion point is set, ready for typing in a label.

7.7.3 Lock SRPs from Selection

This command locks all SRPs within a selected region.

7.7.4 Unlock SRPs from Selection

This command unlocks all SRPs within a selected region.

7.7.5 Clear Selected SRPs

This command removes all SRPs within a selected region, whether they are locked or not.

7.7.17 Drop Edit Point at Playhead

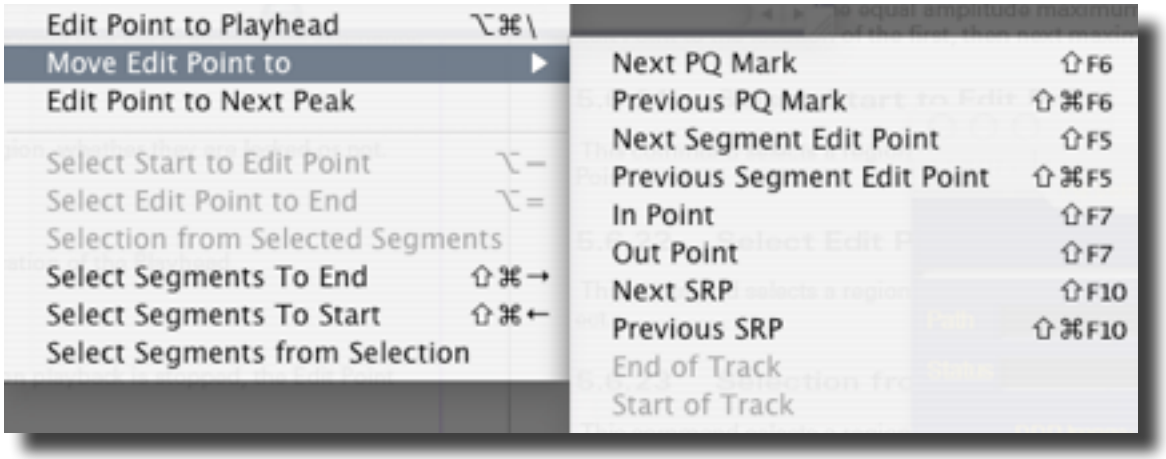
This command moves the Edit Point to the current location of the Playhead and is typically used when the Edit Point to Playhead command, discussed in section 7.7.18 below, is disabled (unchecked).

7.7.6 Edit Point to Playhead

This command toggles a mode on or off whereby, when playback is stopped, the Edit Point jumps to the location of the Playhead.

7.7.7 Move Edit Point to...

This command has a submenu, with ten possible choices.


Edit Point to Playhead ⌥⌘\
Move Edit Point to
Edit Point to Next Peak
Select Start to Edit Point ⌥–
Select Edit Point to End ⌥=
Selection from Selected Segments
Select Segments To End ⇧⌘→
Select Segments To Start ⇧⌘←
Select Segments from Selection
Next PQ Mark ⇧F6
Previous PQ Mark ⇧⌘F6
Next Segment Edit Point ⇧F5
Previous Segment Edit Point ⇧⌘F5
In Point ⇧F7
Out Point ⇧F7
Next SRP ⇧F10
Previous SRP ⇧⌘F10
End of Track
Start of Track

The Move Edit Point to submenu

With this set of choices, the Edit Point can be quickly moved to a number of predefined positions:

- The next Track mark
- The previous Track mark
- The next Segment Edit Point …the Black Fade or Crossfade
- The previous Segment Edit Point …the previous Black Fade or Crossfade
- The In Point
- The Out Point
- The next SRP
- The previous SRP
- The End of Track …the last Fade Out of the Project
- The Start of Track …the first Fade In of the Project

7.7.8 Edit Point to Next Peak

This command examines the amplitude of all audio samples in the selected region or segments, and moves the Edit Point to the location of the maximum sample within the selection. If there are more than one equal amplitude maximum samples, then the command moves the Edit Point to the location of the first, then next maximum samples in turn.

7.7.9 Select Start to Edit Point

This command selects a region from the first Fade In of the Project to the location of the Edit Point.

7.7.12 Select Edit Point to End

This command selects a region from location of the Edit Point to the last Fade Out of the Project.

7.7.11 Selection from Selected Segments

This command selects a region from the first Fade In of the first selected segment to the last Fade Out of the last selected segment.

7.7.12 Select Segment to End

This command selects all segments from the Edit Point to the last segment in the Project, including the segment in which the Edit Point is located. If the Edit Point has not been placed, the command selects all segments from the first selected segment to the last segment in the Project.

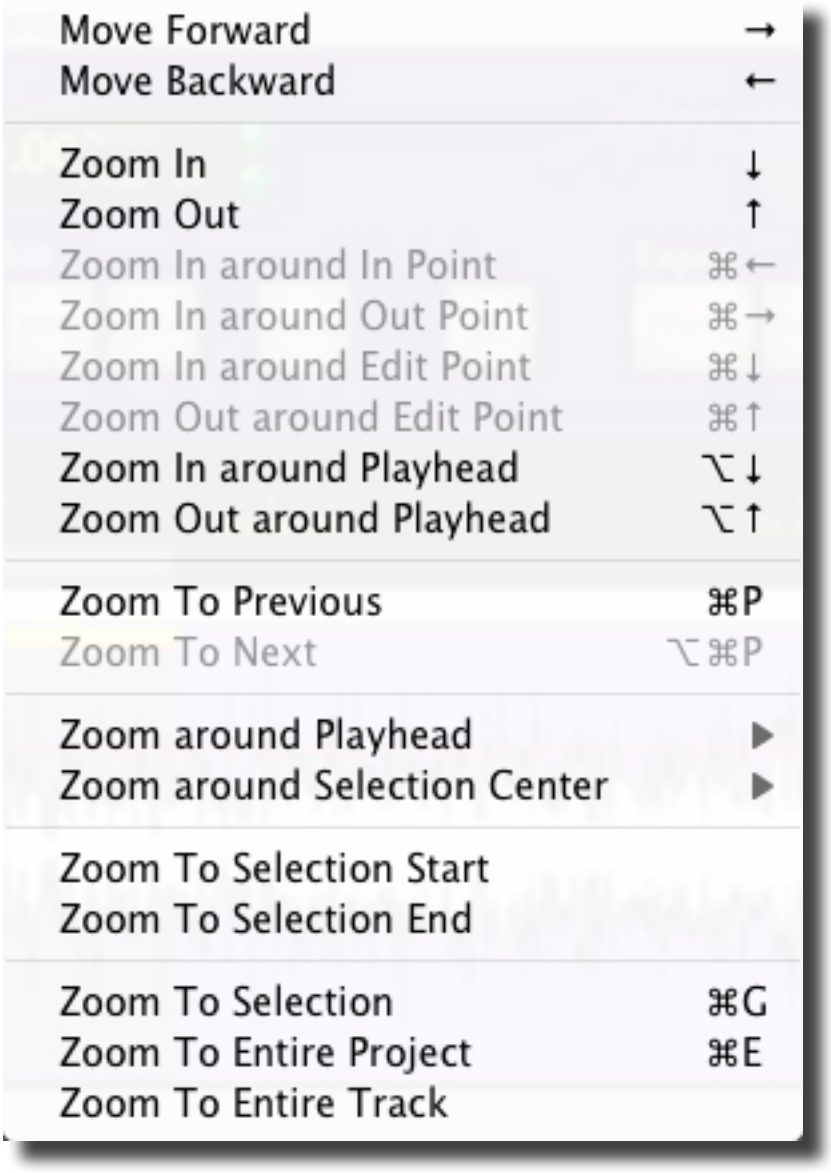
7.7.25 Select Segment to Start

This command selects all segments from the first segment in the Project to the Edit Point, including the segment in which the Edit Point is located. If the Edit Point has not been placed, the command selects all segments from the first segment in the Project to the selected segment.

7.7.26 Select Segments from Selection

This command selects all segments that are part of the selected region, including the segments in which the start and end of the selection is located.

7.8 The View Menu


Move Forward →
Move Backward ←
Zoom In ↓
Zoom Out ↑
Zoom In around In Point ⌘←
Zoom In around Out Point ⌘→
Zoom In around Edit Point ⌘↓
Zoom Out around Edit Point ⌘↑
Zoom In around Playhead ⌥↓
Zoom Out around Playhead ⌥↑
Zoom To Previous ⌘P
Zoom To Next ⌥⌘P
Zoom around Playhead
Zoom around Selection Center
Zoom To Selection Start
Zoom To Selection End
Zoom To Selection ⌘G
Zoom To Entire Project ⌘E
Zoom To Entire Track

The View menu

7.8.1 Move Forward/Backwards/Select Next/Previous Segment

These contextual commands change dynamically, depending on whether a segment is selected or not. When a segment is not selected, Move Forward/Backwards move the contents of the Panel forward and backward along the time line. The zoom factor or magnification stays the same.

When one or more segments are selected, these commands change to enable you to select the "next" segment. If one segment is selected, the meaning and function of the commands are clear but, if more than one segment is selected, then Select Next will select the segment after the last currently selected segment and Select Previous will select the segment just before the first currently selected.

7.8.2 Zoom In/Out

The zoom commands change the zoom factor or magnification, expanding or reducing the time scale by 90%, with 10% overlap from the previous view for visual context. Zooming in provides more detail while zooming out lets you see more of the overall program.

7.8.3 Zoom In Around In/Out Point

These commands change the magnification of the waveform display while centering the waveform display on the In Point or Out Point. The amount of time shown around the In or Out Point is defined by the Zoom to In/Out setting in the Time Display tab of Windows > Preferences. See section 7.9.5 for information on the Time Display tab.

7.8.4 Zoom In/Out around Edit Point

These commands change magnification while keeping the waveform display centered on either the Edit Point and is very handy for determining context. The amount of time shown around the In or Out Point is defined by the Zoom to In/Out setting in the Time Display tab of Windows > Preferences. See section 7.9.5 for information on the Time Display tab.

7.8.5 Zoom In/Out around Playhead

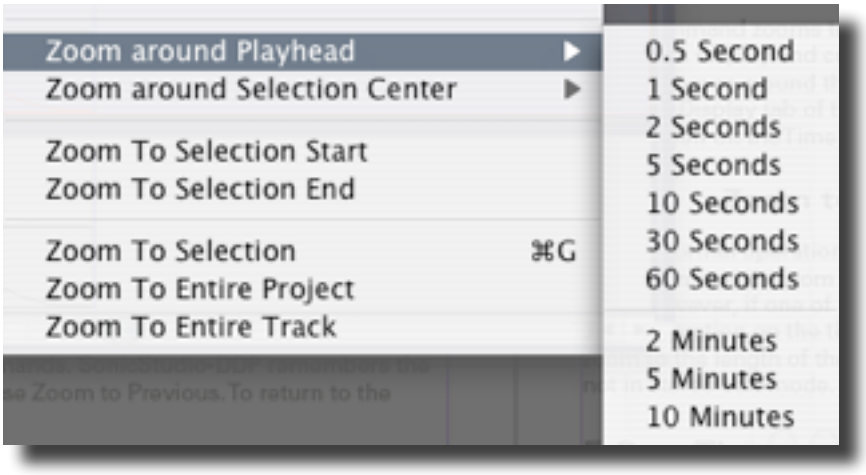
These commands combine a Zoom In/Out command while keeping the waveform display centered on the Playhead, also very handy for determining context.

7.8.6 Zoom to Previous/Next

These commands are like Undo/Redo for zoom commands. Amarra Vinyl remembers the last lower resolution (out) zoom level. To return to an prior zoomed out level, choose Zoom to Previous. To return to the more recent zoom level, choose Zoom to Next.

7.8.7 Zoom around Playhead

This command zooms with the Playhead in the center of the waveform display, and is very handy for determining context. The level of zoom is determined by a submenu.



The Zoom around Playhead menu

The amount of time chosen in the submenu indicates the total amount of time shown in the display after the Zoom Around Playhead command is selected. The amount of time will be equally divided between the area to the left and right of the Playhead position.

7.8.8 Zoom around Selection Center

This command is similar to Zoom around Playhead, except that instead the display is centered around the centre of a selected region or selected segment(s).

7.8.9 Zoom to Selection Start/End

This command zooms the waveform display to the start or end of the current selection with the start or end of the selection centered in the waveform display and is very handy for refining a selection's boundaries. The amount of time shown around the selection boundaries is defined by the Zoom to Sel Start/ setting in the Time Display tab of Windows > Preferences. See section 7.9.5 below for information on the Time Display tab.

7.8.10 Zoom to Selection

This command zooms to the currently selected region such that the selection is centered in the waveform display and covers a preset percentage of the waveform display area. The amount of time shown around the selection boundaries is defined by the Zoom to Sel Start/ setting in the Time Display tab of Windows > Preferences. See section 7.9.5 for more information on the Time Display tab.

7.8.11 Zoom to Entire Project/Track

Under normal operation with a stereo Project, these two menu commands work identically. These commands zoom so that the entire program is shown across the entire waveform display. However, if one of the two Panels contains more audio information, stretching over a longer duration on the time line than the other channel, the Zoom to Entire Track command will zoom to the length of the selected track. This situation typically occurs if the two Panels contain dual mono material or a wildly "stereo" program created in mono editing mode.

7.9 The Windows Menu

The Windows menu

The Windows menu provides quick access to all available windows within Amarra Vinyl and an active Project.

7.9.1 Meters

This command toggles the Meters window or Master section. See section 5.1 for a detailed description of this window.

7.9.2 Equalizer

This command opens the Sonic EQ Window. Sonic EQ is global meaning it applies to all files played in or exported from Amarra Vinyl. Read the chapter on Sonic EQ for more info on use.

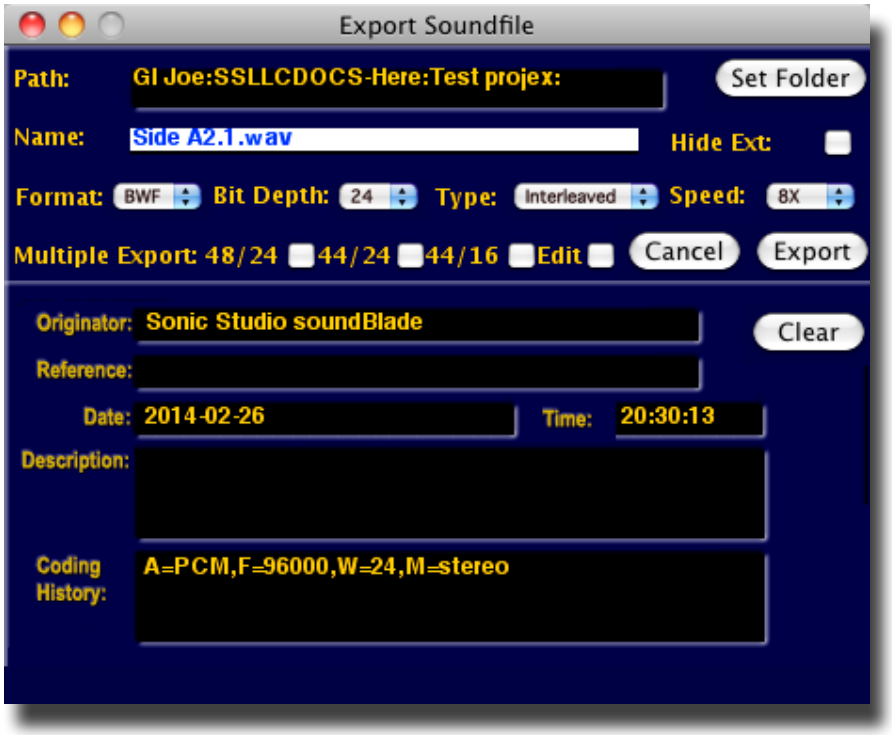
7.9.3 Export Sound File...

This command opens the Export Soundfile dialog box and exports sound files in either AIFF, WAV, BWF format, in 16 or 24 bit word length, and CAF files in 32 bit format. This is the same things as clicking the Export button. It exports the audio with amplitude changes from segment gain, plus any Gain Overlay and fades.

Learn Amarra Vinyl 2.2 now supports sample-rate conversion and 32-bit CAF file support when using the 'Export Tracks...' or 'Export Sound File...' commands. This feature creates multiple files at the same time, based on the sample rate and bit depth you select. Supports 44/24 and 44/16 and 48/24. A new folder is created for each conversion, at the Path you define from 'Set Folder', and titled '44-24', '44-16' and '48-24'.

Since this action does multiple exports at the same time, processing can take a while.

NEW Shortcut ctrl-cmd-E for Export Tracks



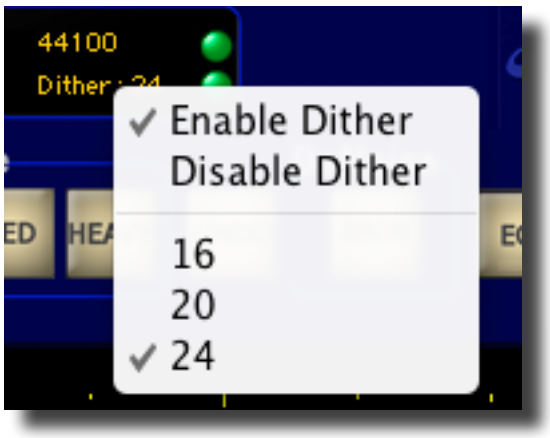
The Export Sound File Dialog Box. Note the sample-rate conversion options.

To use this function, create a selection by either clicking on a segment's Title Bar or by click–dragging in the top Panel to create a time region selection. Then choose the destination directory with the Set File button. Then, set the file type, word length and speed.

Optionally, you can specify that the newly created material replace the existing. The Edit after Export check box performs a Replace edit, synchronously replacing the material existing prior to the export with consolidated material created from the export function. Once all options are set, clicking on the Export button causes soundBlade HD to "play" the selected region, exporting the audio as it plays. See section 4.9.4 for more information on Replace edits.

Note that playing material at 1x speed will not improve the quality during an export so, it is recommended that, unless real–time playback is needed, you use either the 8x or Max speed setting as it has better temporal resolution. Also, during high speed exports, the time display and Playhead do not operate in real time and audio is not available at the outputs.

Learn About Dither: Make sure to set dither to 24 bits for exporting files. The Dither indicator in the top center section of the Project window shows green when dither on output is enabled and grey when dither is disabled. To change dither, control–click on the "Dither" label, and a contextual menu appears, allowing dither to be enabled, disabled and change bit depth..



7.9.4 Export Tracks...

Learn soundBlade 2.2 now supports sample-rate conversion and 32-bit CAF file support when using the 'Export Tracks...' or 'Export Sound File...' commands. This feature creates multiple files at the same time, based on the sample rate and bit depth you select. Supports 44/24 and 44/16 and 48/24. A new folder is created for each conversion, at the Path you define from 'Set Folder', and titled '44-24', '44-16' and '48-24'.

Since this action does multiple exports at the same time, processing can take a while.

NOTE: Dither Type is set in Preferences' Delivery tab.

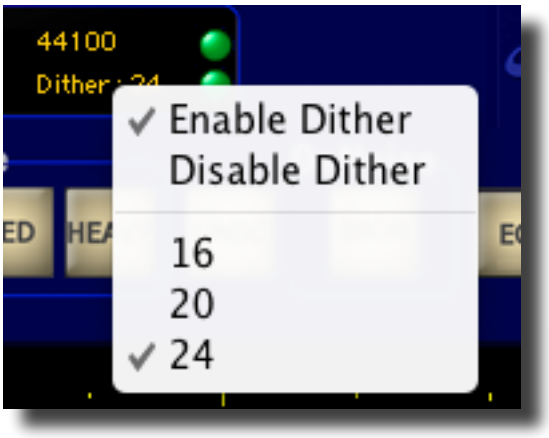
NEW Shortcut ctrl-cmd-E for Export Tracks

This command exports sound files in either AIFF, WAV, BWF format, in 16 or 24 bit word length, and CAF files in 32 bit format based on the Start Mark and End Mark It exports the audio between a Start Mark and End Mark as separate tracks, with amplitude changes from segment gain, plus any Gain Overlay or plug–ins. This is the same as option+clicking the Export button.

The Export Tracks Dialog Box. Note the sample-rate conversion options.

To use this function, create a selection by either clicking on a segment's Title Bar or by click–dragging in the top Panel to create a time region selection. Make sure the top two Panels are assigned, on the first two Desk Strips, to M1-Out and M2-Out. Then choose the destination directory with the Set File button. Then, set the file type, word length and speed.

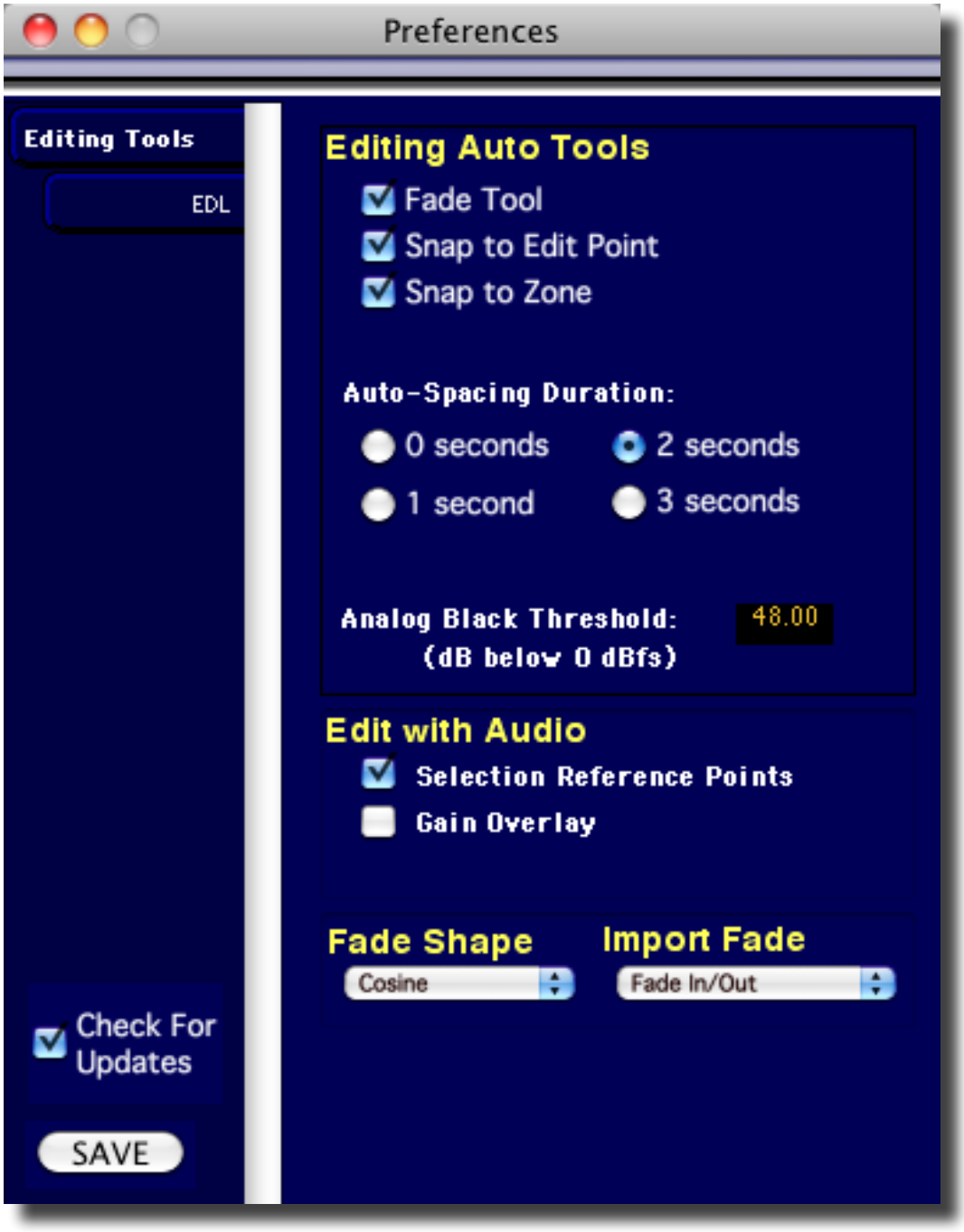
Learn About Dither: Make sure to set dither to 24 bits for exporting files. The Dither indicator in the top center section of the Project window shows green when dither on output is enabled and grey when dither is disabled. To change dither, control–click on the "Dither" label, and a contextual menu appears, allowing dither to be enabled, disabled and change bit depth..



7.9.5 The Preferences Window

Some of the functions and commands within Amarra Vinyl can be changed to adhere to your preferred values or behavior. All of these preferences can be adjusted in the Windows > Preference Window

7.9.5.1 Setting Preferences — Editing Tools Tab



The Preference window showing the Editing Tools tab

7.9.5.2 Editing Auto Tools

The Editing Auto Tools section has the following options:

- Fade Tool: When checked, the Fade Tool will be enabled for editing. To learn more about the Fade Tool and its properties, see section 3.8.1 and 4.1 for a full description.
- Snap to Edit Point ON: When checked, dragging a segment near the position of the Edit Point will cause the segment to auto–snap. This feature is really only applicable when dragging audio into a Project from the Finder or another open Project.
- Snap To Zone: When the zone snap is checked, dragging a segment near the start or end of another segment will cause the segment to auto–snap to the red or blue snap locations. See section 4.3 for more information on the drag & drop, auto–snap functions.
- AutoSpacing Duration: AutoSpace uses a pre-selected time value to space the segments. Here, this value can be selected between 1 and 3 seconds. Alternatively, AutoSpace can be turned by setting to zero.
- Analog Black Threshold: This field shows the default value used by the Mark > Analog Black to Marks command for the amplitude threshold. This value, expressed as dB below 0 dBFS, sets the loudness threshold below which a Start of Track or End of Track mark will be placed. See section 3.9.4 for more information on automatically placing Track marks.

7.9.5.3 Edit with Audio

- Selection Reference Points: When editing, this setting causes SRPs to move along with their associated segment. They are also included with the audio when it is copied to the clipboard.
- Gain Overlay: When editing, this setting causes gain nodes to move along with their associated segment. They are also included with the audio when it is copied to the clipboard.

7.9.5.4 Fade Shape - Default Fade

This selector determines the default fade curve used when any new fades are created Amarra Vinyl. The five curve options are:

- Cosine
- Root Cosine
- Linear
- Root Linear
- Exponential

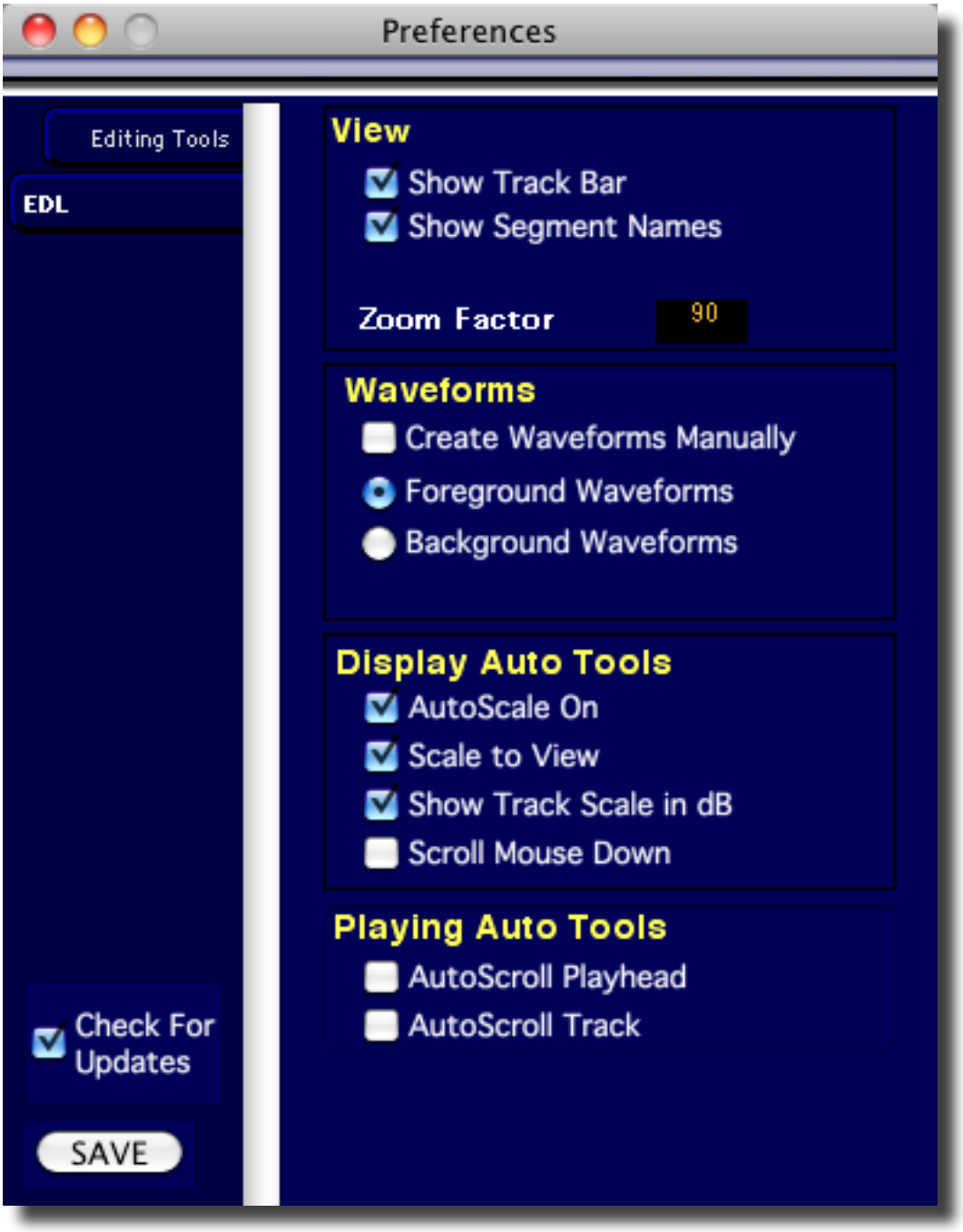
Linear fades, the default, are the most broadly applicable choice. Section 4.1.2 briefly discusses the five curve shape options.

7.9.5.5 Import Fade

- Fade In/Fade Out: On drag and drop, applies the selected Fade Shape to each file as an In/Out Fade. This setting abuts soundfiles together and is recommended for use when Importing SDII files.

- Crossfade: On drag and drop, applies the selected Fade Shape to each file as a crossfade..

7.9.5.6 Setting Preferences — EDL Tab



The Preference window showing the EDL tab

7.9.5.7 View

The View section has the following options:

- Show Track Bar: When checked, an additional layer of visual feedback is enabled in the Project. This alternate view provides a graphical approach to evaluating and manipulating your Track metadata. Existing metadata is displayed from an object–

oriented perspective, whereby each CD Track that will result from your current Track placement is shown in grey while the pause between tracks is shown in blue. Section 3.9.5 above discusses the Track Bar.

- Show Segment Names: When checked, segment names will show in the Title Bar. When unchecked, the Title Bar of segments remains empty.

- Zoom Factor (%): When zooming in or out, the display will be zoomed by the factor defined in this field. The default 90% means that 90% of the current waveform view will be zoomed, with 10% overlap for visual context. This preference only applies to selections.

- Create Waveforms Manually: When checked, Amarra Vinyl does not create waveforms automatically when a file is added to an EDL. Waveforms for these files can be created by selecting the file in the EDL, then File>Build Waveforms.

- Background Waveforms: When checked, waveforms will be generated in the background upon opening sound files from other DAWs. When unchecked, no graphical "waveform files" will be produced automatically. The File > Build Waveform… command will manually generate waveform files.

- Remove Waveforms on Close: When checked, waveform metadata will be deleted when a Project is closed.

7.9.5.8 Display Auto Tools

The Display Auto Tools has the following options:

- AutoScale On: When enabled, the display is scaled vertically so that the maximum peak within the entire Panel becomes full scale. This preference provides overall amplitude scaling while maintaining visual context between loud and soft passages.

- Scale to View: When enabled, the display is scaled vertically so that the maximum peak within the currently visible waveform becomes full scale. This preference provides local magnification, excellent for fine editing, but requires that you refer to the numeric vertical scale to determine the general amplitude.

- Show Track Scale in dB: When enabled, the amplitude scale is shown in dBFS, or dB full scale referenced to a "full" 24 bit AES/EBU data word. When off, the Panel's amplitude scale is shown as a non–dimensional, normalized value ranging from 0 to ±1, equating to digital silence or full scale, respectively.

- Scroll Mouse Down: Takes advantage of your mouse scroll wheel. When selected, downward scrolling moves are respected. When deselected, downward scrolling moves upward.

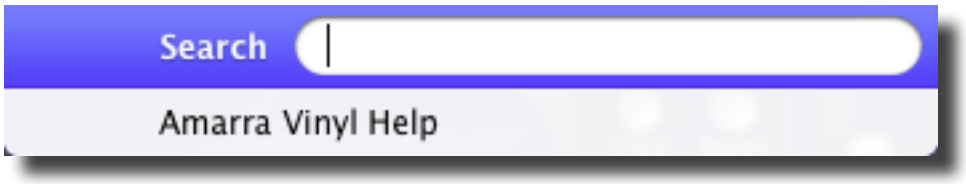
7.9.5.9 Playing Auto Tools

The Playing Auto Tools section has the following settings:

- AutoScroll Playhead: When selected, the Playhead will move as normal until it reaches the right edge of the waveform display. Then, the Move Forward command automatically takes place, moving the waveform view to the right.

- AutoScroll Track: When selected, the Playhead stays centered in the waveform display while the underlying waveform display continuously scrolls.

7.9.6 The Help Menu



The Help Menu. Selecting Amarra Vinyl Help opens a Help Window that displays Amarra Vinyl topics of interest.

Chapter 8.....NoNOISE II: DeClick & DeCrackle

Sonic Studios' NoNOISE II is the world's premier tool for restoring vintage and problematic audio recordings. Amarra Vinyl offers two options that are part of the larger NoNOISE II family.

The DeClick option precisely removes scratches impulse noise, analog or digital overloads, harmonic and intermodulation distortion. The DeCrackle option removes the noise associated with the surface noise on a Vinyl record or general distortion.

Note The Amarra Vinyl restoration tool set includes the Manual DeClick tool, DeCrackle tool, Sonic EQ and a high-quality Sample Rate Conversion utility.

Note DeClick first and DeCrackle last.

Important Note the DeClick and DeCrackle interpolations are destructive in nature. This means that the file that these interpolations are applied to are altered from their original state. It is important that your make a duplicate of any file that will have the interpolations listed below applied to them. Simply find the file in the Finder, select it and hit Cmd+D.

8.2.3 Basic Manual DeClick & DeCrackle

The Amarra Vinyl version of NoNoise II option provides a smart tool for isolating and removing individual transient impairments in a sound file. Manual DeClick assists in removing unwanted noises such as clicks, pops and thumps. The algorithm analyze audio on either side of the anomaly and, based on this information, synthesizes replacement samples. Manual DeClicking substitutes the repaired samples for the original program material.

Amarra Vinyl also includes a entry level version of DeCrackle, an algorithm that reduces surface noise on mechanical recordings, and distortion in any sound file.

Note that Manual DeClick processes generate two new files for each sound file that is repaired. These ".cd" and ".rl" files contain the samples removed during repair and a list of their locations, respectively. If you move or delete either of these files, you will not be able to restore the original samples, undoing the repair.

Manual DeClick is generally used, on very short duration regions; 14 msec. or less.

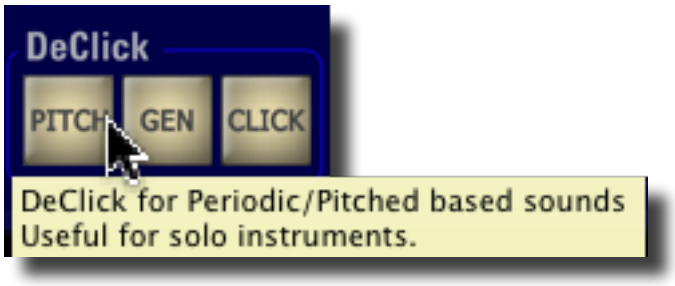
The DeCrackler can process an unlimited amount of material.

8.2.3.1 Interpolation Algorithms

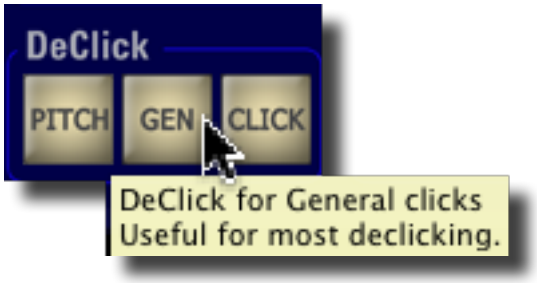
There are two interpolators that are available in Amarra Vinyl. Each is suited to a particular type of audio problem and context.

8.2.3.2 The DeClicker

The DeClick feature in Amarra Vinyl has three useful repair tools:



Pitched DeClick



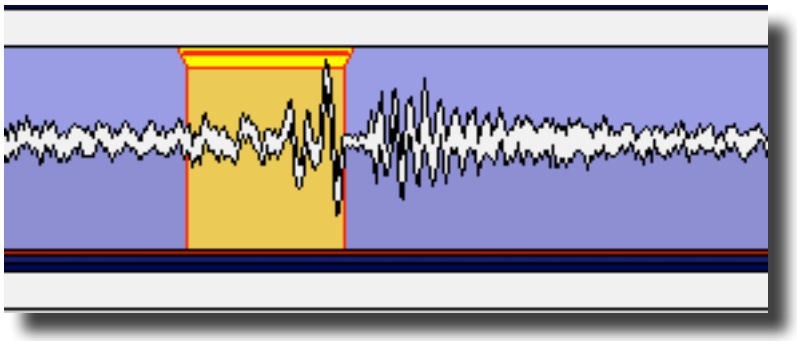
General DeClick

DeClick for small clicks or ticks

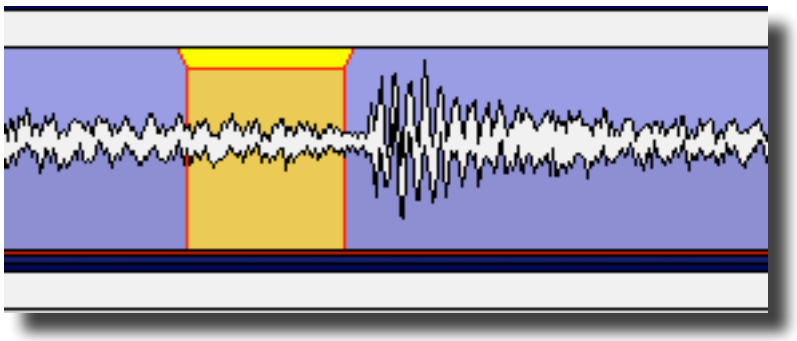
The DeClicker is a general purpose algorithm. The majority of de-clicking situations can be handled by simply choosing this option.

The DeClicker examines the audio on either side of the selection to determine the context for resynthesizing audio to fill the gap.

Here's an example:



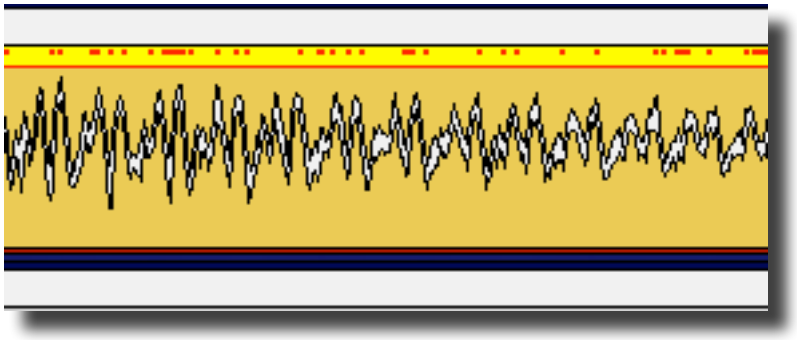
The original material



A "repair," using the DeClicker

8.2.3.3 The DeCrackler

The DeCrackler,is quite different from the Declicker. It is designed to reduce all kinds of distortion and, unlike the DeClicker, is implemented so it can be applied to passages of unlimited duration. You may have to wait a while for your result but, it is worth it. The DeCrackler is capable of reducing distortion, including offensive, harsh sounding material. Its micro–repairs leave the audio sounding better without resorting to low pass filtering.



The DeCrackler's micro–repairs

8.2.3.4 Using DeClick and DeCrackle

Either channel of a stereo pair can be operated on, the repair will be performed on both. Either DeClick algorithm can perform stereo or mono repairs.

Using the Waveform display and playback, identify the location of an impairment. Zoom in until you can clearly see the impairment.

1. Place an Edit Point over the click or crackle. Click on the appropriate button to repair.
2. Click–drag in the Panel to create a time region selection that fully contains the damaged samples. Click on the appropriate button to repair.
3. Click–drag in the Panel to create a time region selection that fully contains the damaged samples. Control + click to reveal a contextual menu with restoration options for your selection:

Contextual Menu showing restoration options.

On selection of a repair tool, Amarra Vinyl replaces the compromised audio with repaired samples. Don't worry about selecting on zero crossing boundaries, the software's intelligence will provide a seamless transition. However, do be aware that very low frequency artifacts may be present after a click and, they will not be obviously visible in the waveform. If you find that the DeClicker "leaves behind" some low frequency noise after a click has been removed, then Restore the click back to its original state, then select more time after the visual end of the click and repair again.

The DeCrackler is able to intelligently identify distortion on a very small time scale. Don't be surprised to find "micro–repairs" within your time region selection.

8.2.3.5 Restoring Clicks

First, make sure the NoNoise II > Show Interpolations option is checked. Any existing "interpolation" or repair will appear marked with a horizontal red line, the "Restore Bar," over the samples that have been altered.

1. To remove an existing repair, zoom in on the waveform and locate the red Restore Bar.
2. Click–drag in the Panel to select a region that contains only the Restore Bar you wish to undo.

3. From the NoNOISE menu, choose Restore Click.

NoNOISE replaces the repaired audio with the original samples containing the defect.

Chapter 9..... Broadband DeNoise

Broadband DeNoise (BBDN) is the highest fidelity single–ended noise reducer available today and can rescue both old and new recordings alike. Broadband noise, whether white, pink or brown in spectrum, is one of the most common forms of audio degradation. Noise can be introduced from any of a number of sources, including the modulation and asperity noise inherent in analog tape recording and Johnson or thermal noise from microphones, preamps, and other analog signal processing equipment. BBDN is a single ended broadband noise reducer that, unlike less refined products, can suppress or eliminate broadband noise with little or no audible artifacts, even at extreme settings.

BBDN is an updated and improved version of the legendary restoration technology from Sonic Solutions. The Grammy® award winning NoNOISE technology set the standard by which all other restoration toolsets are judged. And, because BBDN is built on the Sonic Studio Engine, you can be certain that the processing is double-precision resulting in less quantization noise, no timbral shifts and dramatically lower distortion and artifacts.

9.1 Overview

BBDN is designed to address audio contamination from broadband or wide-band noise sources. Whether the problems are electrical or acoustical, BBDN can vastly improve perceived fidelity and provide a quiet, more uniform noise floor to your recordings without objectionable artifacts or any shift in timbre or room tone.

BBDN is effective on these and other types of noise:

- Modulation and asperity noise on analog magnetic recordings
- Obtrusive grain–induced noise in optical motion picture soundtracks
- Johnson-Nyquist noise in analog signal chains
- Acoustical noises from engines, HVAC units, wind, water, insects & other sources

• Colorless suppression of excessive reverberation

Noise removal is easy:

1) Define small sample of noise - generally 1/2 second is good. Set Amarra Vinyl to play a second or two before the noise by clicking once and setting the Edit Point before the noise sample.

2) Play the file and press the Take Est button during the section you defined as noise. Save the estimate that appears by clicking the Save Est button

3) Adjust the Thresh (Threshold) and Atten (Attenuation or reduction) sliders to taste. Use the NoNoise In/Out button to compare processed vs. original.

4) You will need to export or 'bounce' your files to apply BBDN processing to a finished file. Note that BBDN is a non-destructive process. It does not alter your original files.

LEARN The operation of the Broadband DeNoise is a subjective process – there is no single 'correct' setting – only your hearing can decide. In general though, if too much program is present in the suppressed signal, then you are probably using Threshold or Attenuation settings that are too aggressive. Also, it's fairly easy to misinterpret noise as high frequency content so, critical listening with a wide-band speaker system or quality headphones are required for proper operation.

9.2 The Noise Estimate

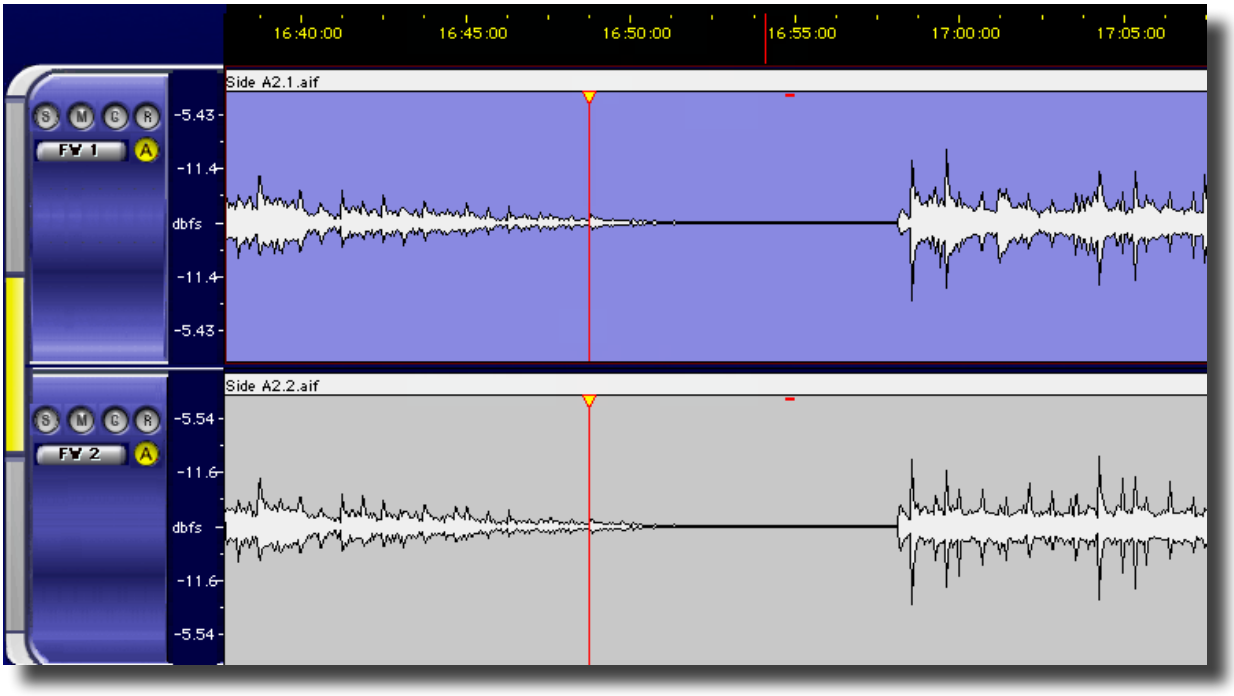
The first step in denoising is to derive a Noise Estimate from the material to be processed. The Noise Estimate, or simply Estimate, is an individual "fingerprint" of the noise and determines local threshold values for each frequency bin. The BBDN user interface provides a group of commands for creating, processing, editing and storing the Estimate. The Estimate determines the result of the entire denoising process, so it is important to ensure that the estimate taken is valid and represents the true noise floor of the source sound file.

9.2.1 Noise Estimates

The procedure for taking a usable Estimate has several steps. First, open the source sound file into either soundBlade or your audio software, then open the BBDN plug-in. Next, identify a short section of audio where there is only noise or predominantly noise. About 0.3 to 0.5 seconds is sufficient. Set the playback cursor to a few seconds before the section you've identified as noise. Start playback, and as the play head move over the noise segment, press the Take button once. That action automatically interpolates the Estimate, applying "Bin Controls," which are individual threshold controls for separate regions of the frequency spectrum, and writes that Estimate into the Estimate Window. Section 1.2.2.2 below discusses where to take a Estimate in detail.

9.2.3 Where to take an Estimate

Once the source sound file is opened into your audio app., the first step is to identify a suitable location from which to take the Estimate. Since the denoising algorithm depends on a constant amplitude and spectrum in the noise floor, try to listen and locate a time region with uniform noise. As to duration, optimum results are obtained when the Estimate is taken from a section of pure noise between about 0.3 and 0.5 seconds in length, with a worst case minimum of 100 milliseconds.

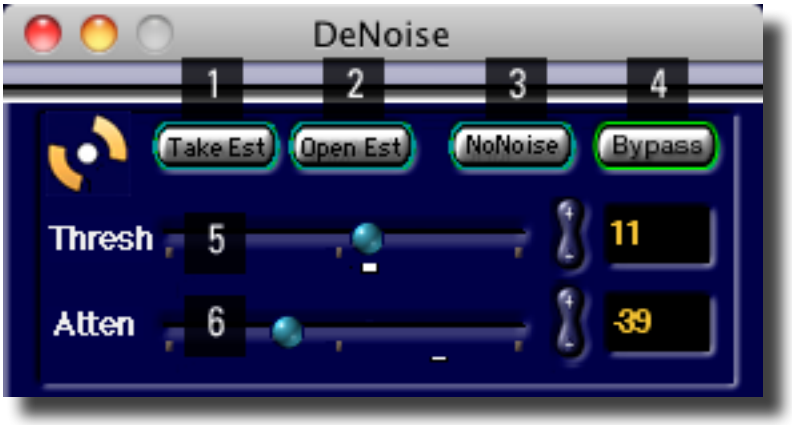


Where To Take A Noise Estimate. Press Take Est button during playback.

If a region of pure or "clean" noise, noise uncontaminated with program, is unavailable as is often the case with tightly edited material, then choose a region with minimal program. The resulting Estimate will require manual adjustment as discussed below. If an Estimate must be taken in presence of signal, it is advisable to avoid sections of spectrally complex or non–harmonic material as it makes manual adjustment more time consuming.

Note BBDN is a non-destructive process. It does not alter your original files..

9.3 User Interface Overview



9.3.1 Take Est [1]

[1] Clicking the Take button samples the audio that's playing and creates a noise Estimate. A Mac Finder window opens and asks where to save the Estimate file. We suggest saving the Estimate within the Project folder for this record.

9.3.2 Open Est [2]

[2] The Open button displays a Mac Open File dialog allowing you to select previously-saved Estimate files. Choose the Estimate file you want to open and click OK.

9.3.3 NoNoise [3]

[3] The NoNoise button toggles the BBDN processing to a solo mode where only the noise being removed is heard (Red= solo mode). Soloing just the noise is useful for adjusting DeNoise parameters.

9.3.4 Bypass [4]

[3] The NoNoise button toggles the BBDN processing to a solo mode where only the noise being removed is heard (Red= solo mode). Soloing just the noise is useful for adjusting DeNoise parameters.

9.4 DeNoise Window Parameters

9.4.1 Thresh (Threshold [5]

Together with the [6] Atten (Attenuation) parameter, the Threshold parameter provides the basic control over how aggressively the process is applied.

As Threshold is raised, more of the signal at all frequencies is processed. At extremely high settings, a distinctive watery aliasing may be heard in the resulting audio. If the Threshold is set too low, little or no noise reduction is obtained. The Threshold can be thought of as the fine line between noise and music, globally raising or lowering it relative to its original position.

The default Threshold is arbitrary. Threshold and Attenuation settings should generally be adjusted together for best results. The [3] Noise/NoNOISE button can help to determine an acceptable compromise setting.

9.4.2 Atten (Attenuation) [6]

This value, in decibels, sets the maximum attenuation to be applied. A setting of 0 produces no noise reduction. The higher or more negative this value is set, the greater the reduction in noise, but with increasing danger of producing audible artifacts in the audio signal. Again, Threshold and Attenuation settings should be adjusted together for best results. Critical listening and use of the Noise/NoNOISE button can help to determine an acceptable compromise setting. If the maximum attenuation setting is too extreme, ambience and/or high frequency content may be lost.

Chapter 10..... Sonic EQ

The Sonic EQ option provides seventeen different types of filtering, with some best used for restoration and damage control while other are excellent for changing color or timbre. The EQ is available in two forms, either as a EQ function in its own window or, as a plug–in for the Project, Desk or Master Section.

10.1 Sonic EQ Pre–processor

10.1.1 Overview

The first instance of Sonic EQ processing to be discussed is the separate Sonic EQ form, in a stand alone window. As shown in figure 6.1, the processing for this form appears very early in the signal path, just after segment and fade gain, and before plug–ins and the gain overlay. It can be thought of as pre-processing for your Project. A Project must be open to use this form since it is intimately associated with the Project.

10.1.2 Operation

To start the separate Sonic EQ form, select the Sonic EQ command from the Windows menu. You may open a Projects either before or after you open Sonic EQ but you must have a Project open for the pre–processor to work. The name of the Project will appear in the Title Bar of the Sonic EQ window.

Sonic EQ pre–Processor form

10.1.2.1 Open & Saving Parameters

At upper left are the Open Param and Save Param buttons. These allow you to save and recall parameters or settings, and function by via a standard Mac OS file browser mechanism.

10.1.2.2 Track Menu

The Track menu switches the user interface for each Panel and its track in the current EDL. As you select a Panel in the Project, its track number will show in that menu so, if you have an 8 Panel/track EDL, then that menu will show 1 through 8. Notice that the window's Title Bar shows the Track number and EDL number in parenthesis next to the Project name, to remind you of which track in which EDL you are controlling.

10.1.2.3 Sections

Each track can have up to four sections of EQ assigned to it. Sections appear in the central section of the window. Each section has a Type menu that lets you assign a filter topology, parametric, shelf, etc., as discussed in section 10.1.2.6 below.

To the right of the Type menu is a parameter call out field that shows the current settings and, to the right of that is the Group menu. Clicking on the Type menu, the call out field or the Group menu selects the respective section.

10.1.2.4 Group Menu

The Group menu lets you group or link sections together. This allows you to apply the same processing to more than one track without recreating redundant settings…Say you want a 1st order Parametric across 6 tracks in an EDL. Set up the parametric in the top section, then assign it to Group A. Then using the Track menu, go through all the other tracks, and assign their top sections to Group A as well. The settings for your 1st order parametric will appear for all tracks and, if you change any member of the Group, all the other members of the group will update accordingly.

10.1.2.5 Bypass

To the right of the Track menu and all sections are Bypass buttons. As expected, they disable or bypass processing. The Bypass button to the right of the Track menu is global and bypasses the entire EQ. The individual Bypass buttons, to the right of each section, are local and apply only to that Panel/track and that section.

10.1.2.6 Parameters

The bottom half of the Sonic EQ window contains the parametric controls. The controls are context–sensitive and apply to the selected filter section.

Available filter types are:

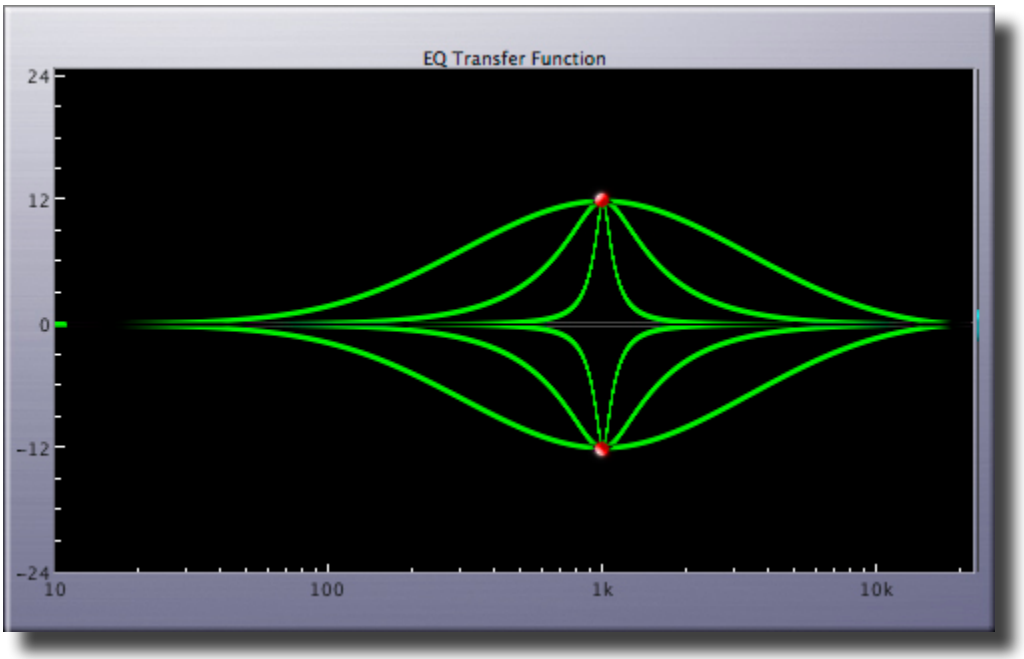
- 1st -4th Order Parametric
- High & Low Shelf
- High & Low Pass
- Bandpass
- Bandstop
- Notch
- RIAA Emphasis and De–emphasis
- AES/EBU Emphasis and De–emphasis
- DC Removal
- DC Removal & AES/EBU De–emphasis

The parametric filters are classic, three parameter versions, with Resonant Frequency, gain, and Q. Q or Quality Factor is defined as the resonant frequency, or center frequency in the case of a symmetrical filter, divided by the bandwidth. The bandwidth is, in turn, defined as the one or two frequencies at which the filter response is 3 dB up or down from unity gain.

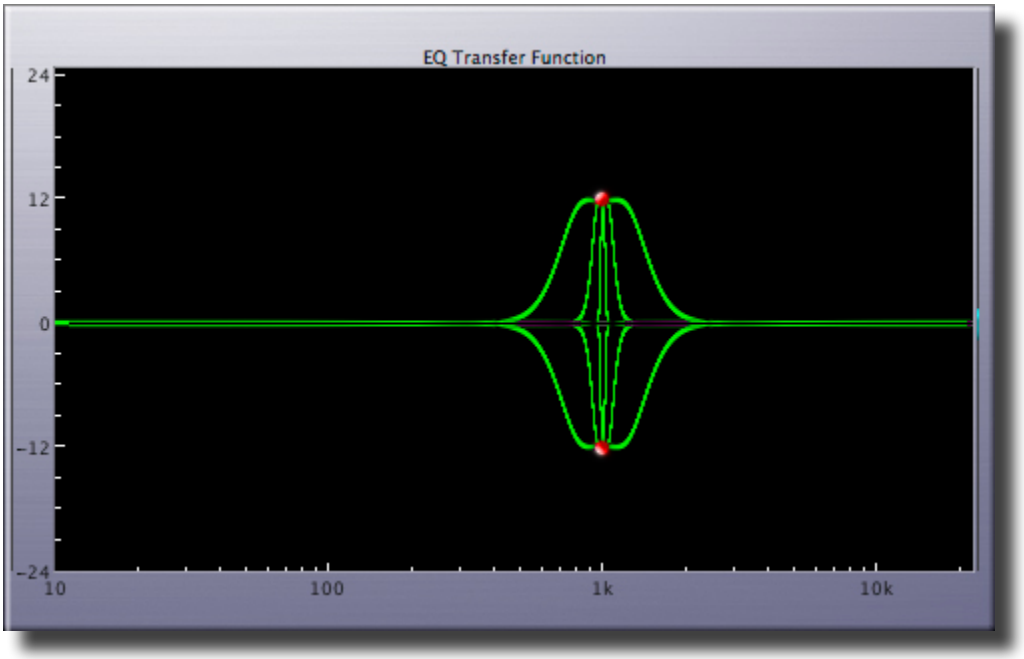
Expressing the width of a filter as a Quality Factor, rather than bandwidth, provides a more intuitive sense of the filter's subjective "sound," since the same value of Q will produce different bandwidths at different frequencies. The higher the frequency, the wider the bandwidth will be for a given Q value, which roughly corresponds to our auditory mechanism's ability to perceive a filter's action. As an example, a parametric filter with a Q of 1 has a bandwidth of 100 Hz when

its center frequency is set to 100 Hz but, it has a bandwidth of 1000 Hz when the center frequency is set to 1000 Hz.

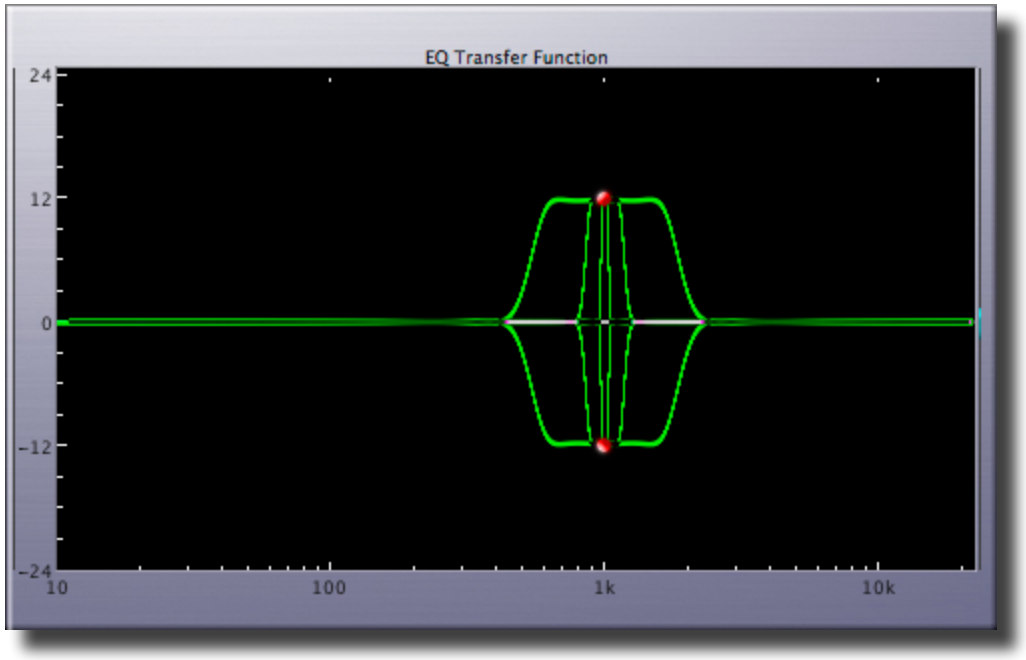
The order or slope of the filter is controllable, with 1st through 4th order or 6 to 24 dB per octave slope, respectively. Each of the four orders are separate menu choices. The family of curves shown below include a wide Q of 0.5, a medium Q of 2.0 and a narrow Q of 10.



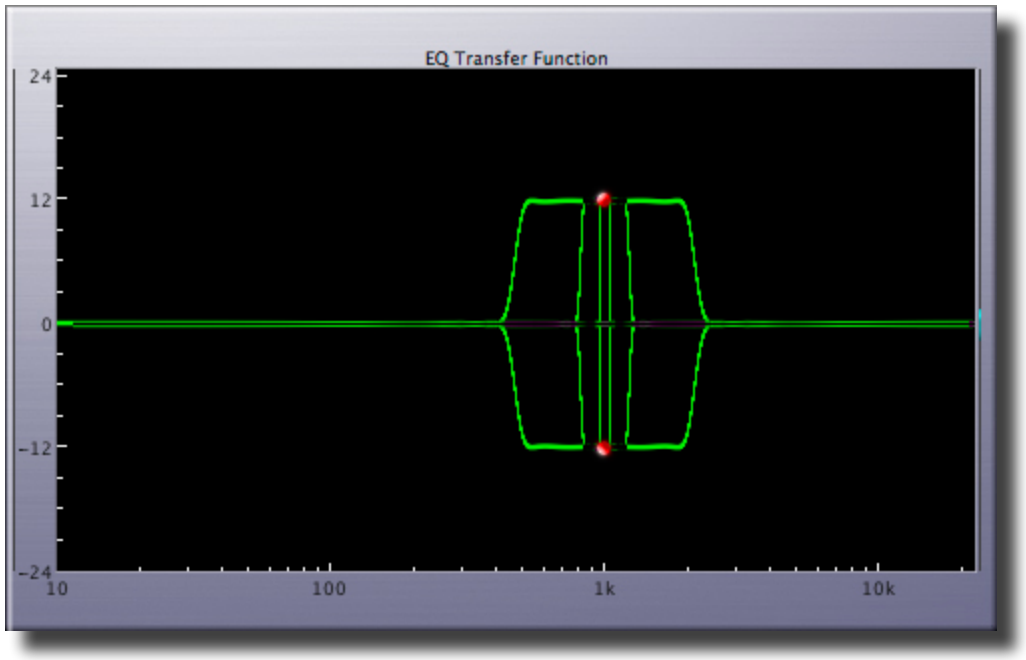
1st order parametric with f_R of 1000 Hz



2nd order parametric with f_R of 1000 Hz

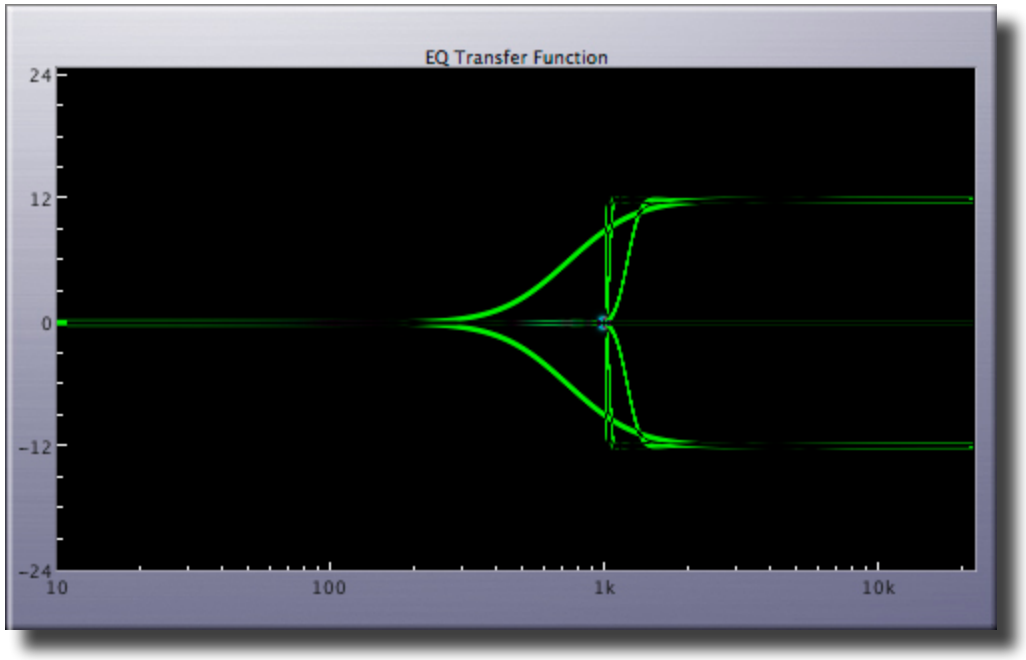


3rd order parametric with f_R of 1000 Hz



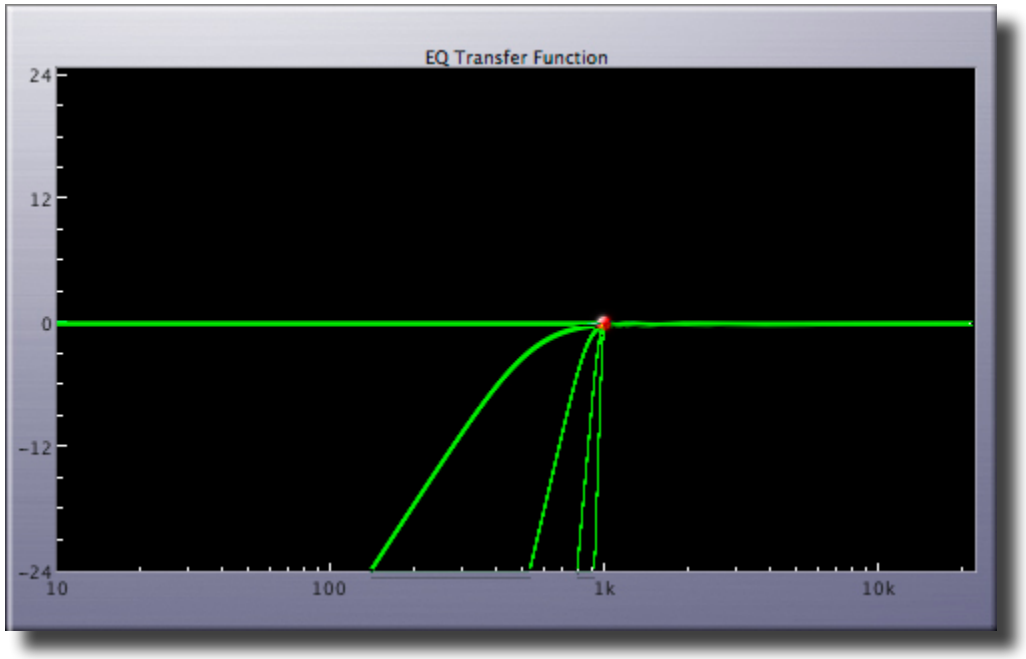
4th order parametric with f_R of 1000 Hz

The high and low shelves are also three parameter filters, with Resonant Frequency, gain, and order. The family of curves below include 1st through 4th order. The 4th order response is practically vertical in the transition region.



High shelf with f_R of 1000 Hz

The high and low pass filters also have three parameters. However, in this case stopband ripple, labeled Stop, has taken the place of gain. As with the shelving filter above, the family of curves below include 1st through 4th order.



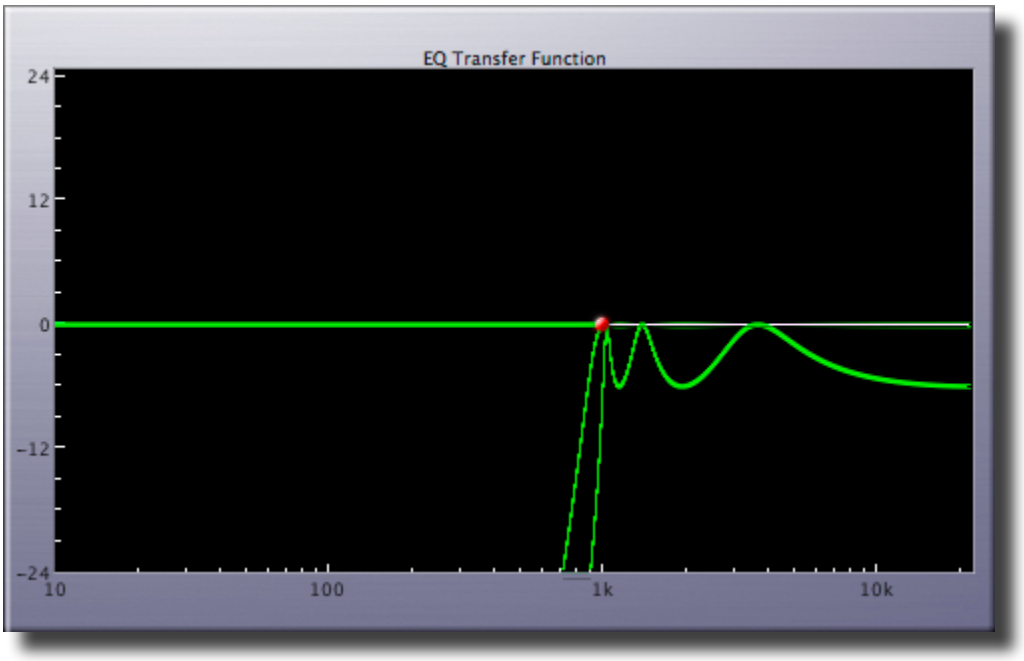
High pass with f_R of 1000 Hz

Stopband ripple describes the amount of amplitude variation or ripple in a filter's out of band response. Indirectly, it describes two more important parameters. One is out of band suppression

or, how much “leakage” of unwanted signal you receive, and the other is phase shift and group delay.

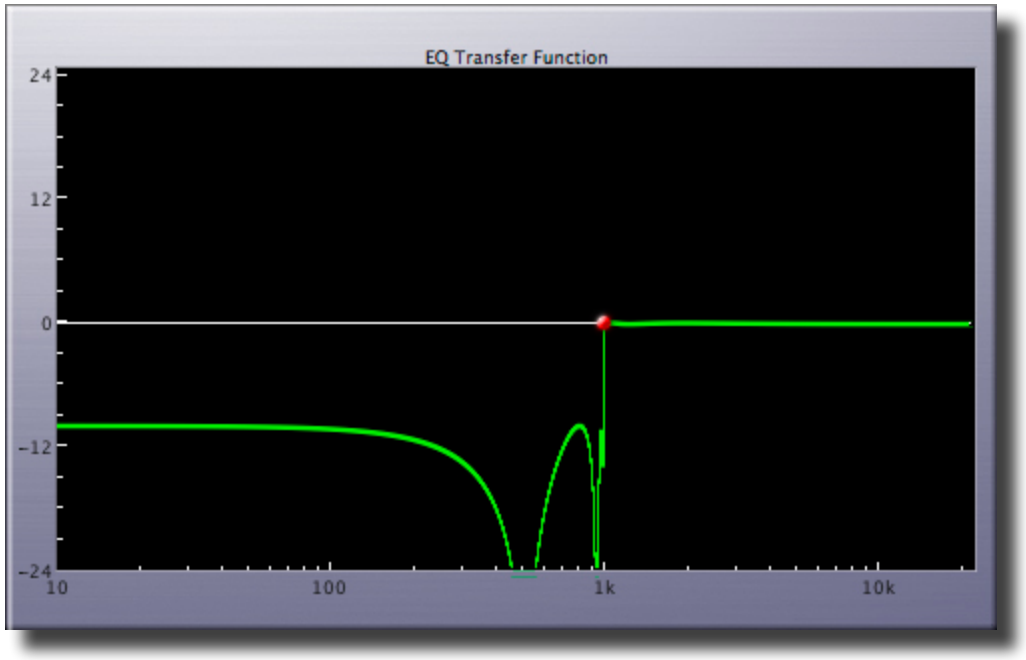
The stopband ripple parameter provides a range of -12 to -108. At the -12 setting, only 12 dB of loss will occur out of band, no much for a filter of this type. However, because the stopband ripple value is so low, the phase response and resultant temporal response of the filter will be excellent. At the other extreme of its range, stopband ripple will be 108 dB down from the (unity) passband gain but, the phase response will suffer, the group delay will be severe and the resulting temporal smearing may be unacceptable. As with any filter, careful listening will determine the trade-off between stopband suppression and side effects.

Figure 10.8 below shows an typical 3rd order high pass filter. Superimposed on that curve is another 3rd order high pass with 6 dB of passband ripple & 120 dB of stopband attenuation. Notice the rippling “bouncing ball” amplitude response in the region above the resonant frequency. This passband ripple would create some possibly undesirable amplitude effects but, because the ripple spec has been relaxed, the phase response would be improved.



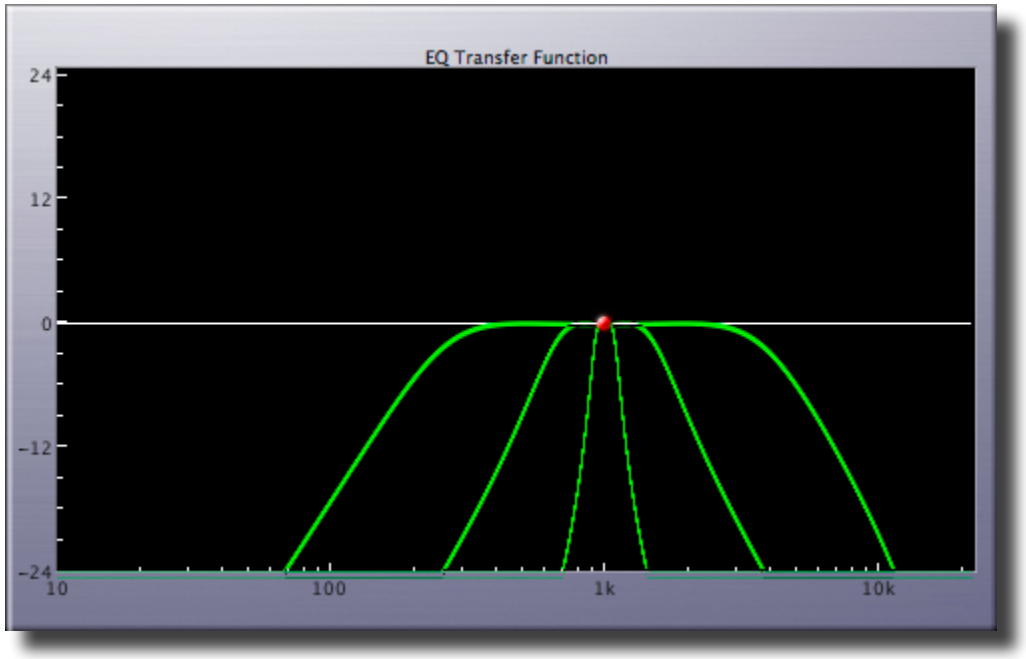
3rd order high pass with 6 dB of passband ripple & 120 dB of attenuation

Compare the response in figure 10.8 with the next figure, which shows a 3rd order high pass with 0.10 dB of passband ripple & 10 dB of stopband attenuation. This time, the stopband ripple would allow some material below the resonant frequency to “leak” into the filter’s output. Again however, because the ripple spec has been relaxed, the phase response would be improved.

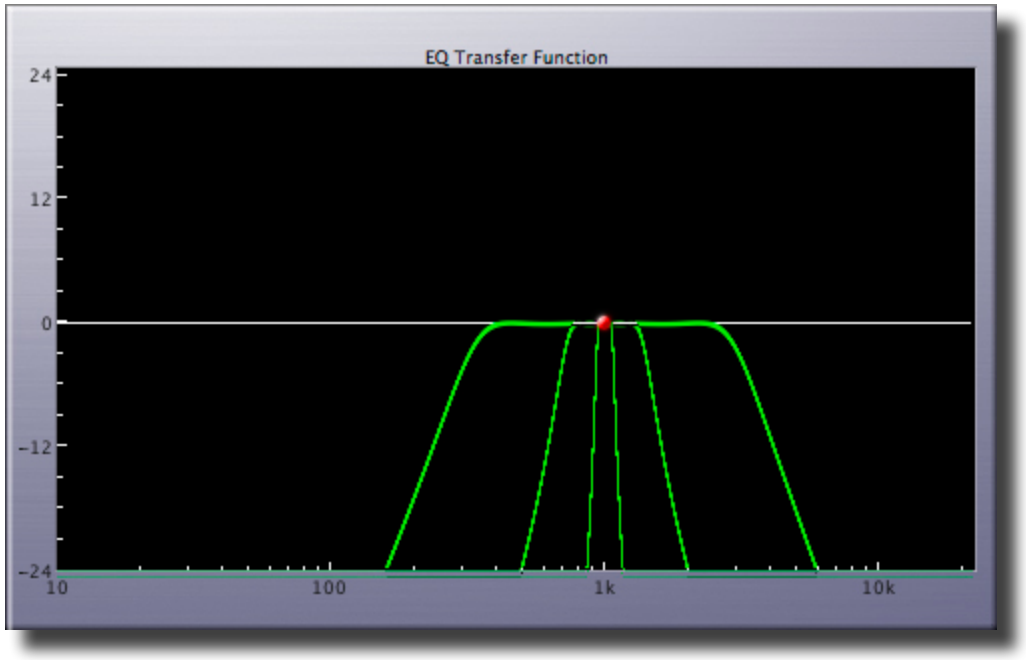


3rd order high pass with 0.1 dB of passband ripple & 10 dB of attenuation

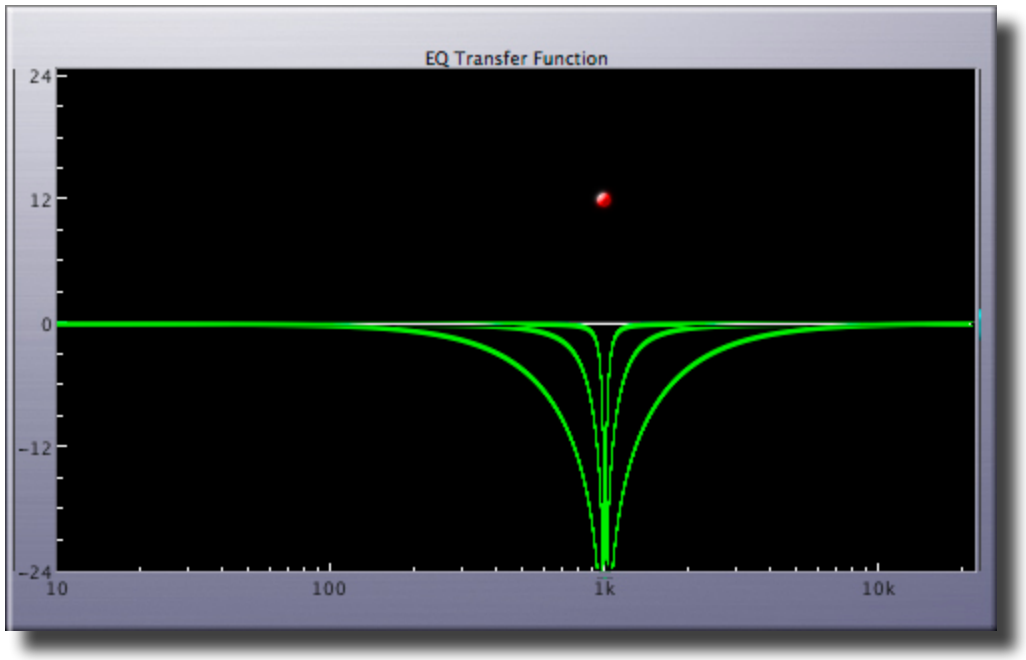
The bandpass and band stop filters are straightforward, three parameter forms, and the notch filter has only two parameters as the gain is implied to be -∞. The next two figures once again include quality factors (Q) of 0.5, 2 and 10.



1st order bandpass with f_R of 1000 Hz

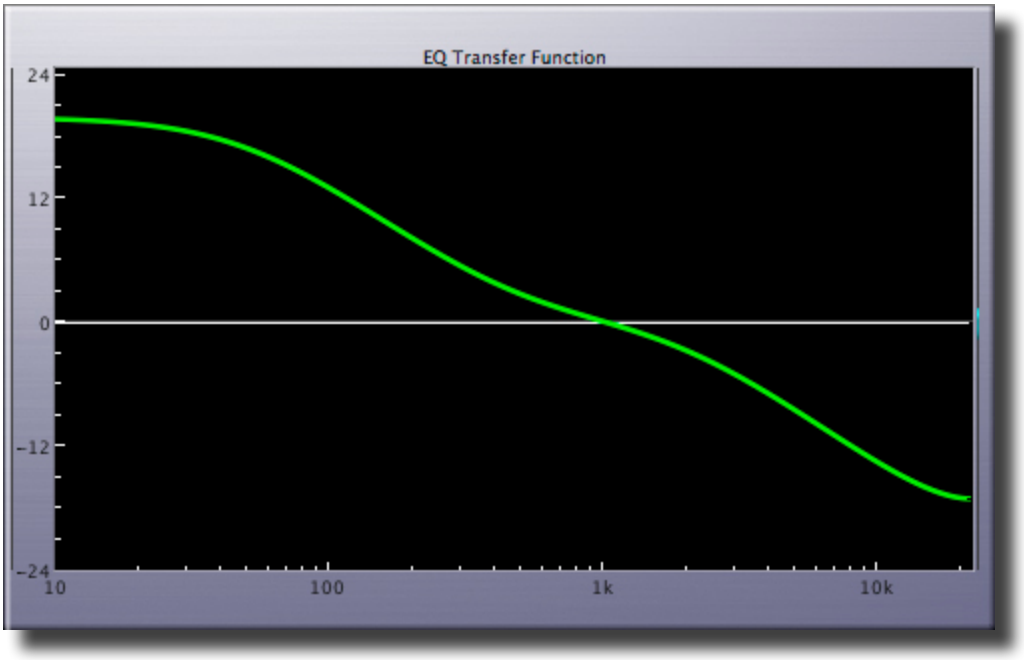


3rd order bandpass with f_R of 1000 Hz



Notch filter with f_R of 1000 Hz

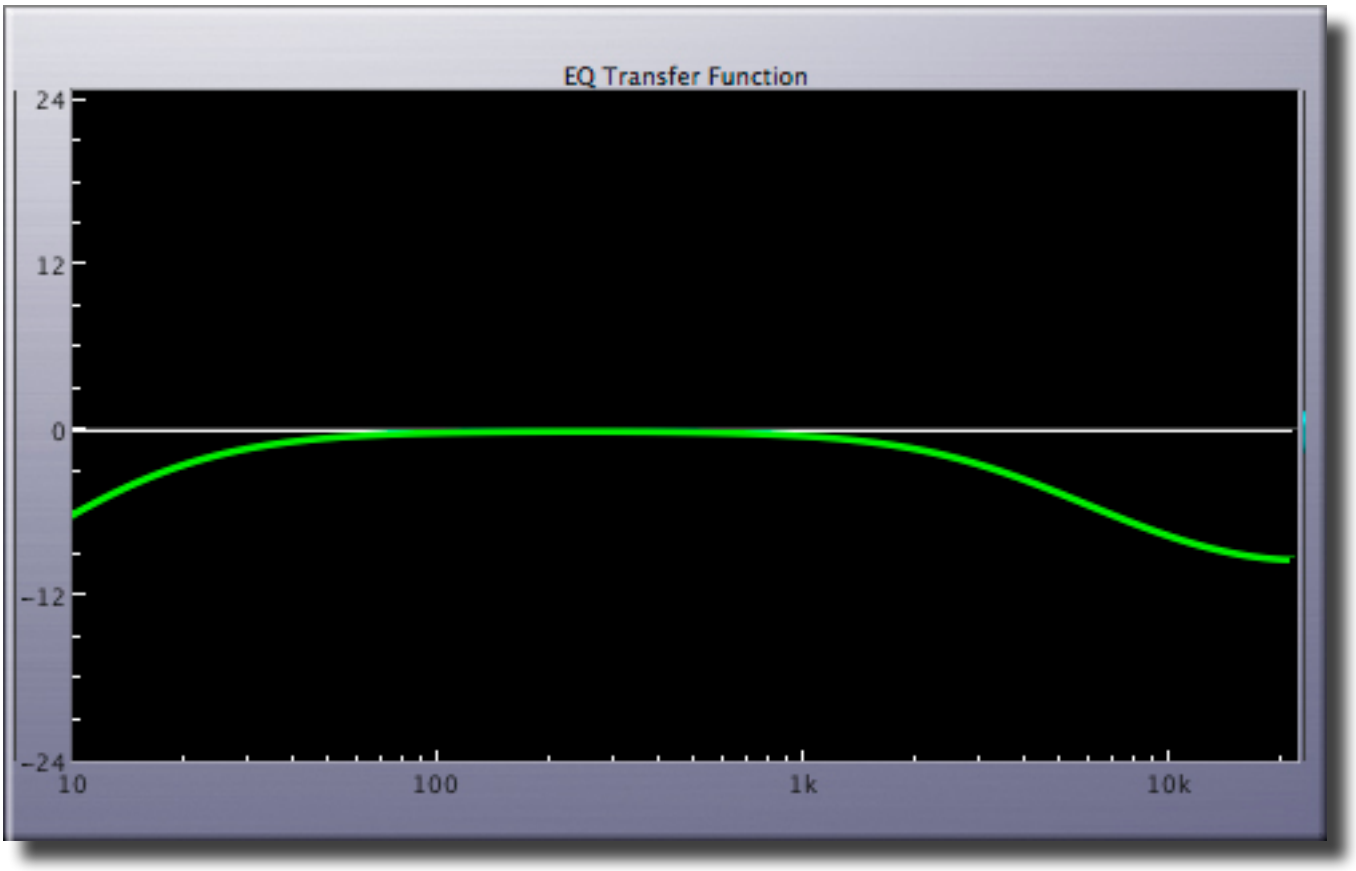
The RIAA filters provide emphasis, for creating cutting masters for lacquer, and de–emphasis for correcting material that is digitized flat from 33 1/3 RPM phonograph record.This approach means that the excellent, minimal phase characteristics of this digital RIAA de–emphasis implementation can be used in place of an imprecise and potentially colored analog filter network in a phono preamplifier.



: RIAA de–emphasis

The “Emph” and “DeEmph” selection are for 44.1 kHz AES/EBU audio. The de–emphasis type is quite useful when archival material was emphasized during recording but the Emphasis flag was not set.

The No DC type is a special form of high pass filter designed for archival recordings made with EIAJ adapters, so called “F1” recorders, which were short lived consumer digital audio recorders manufactured by Sony, Matsushita and others. They employed very simple, low cost converters and often injected a large amount of DC offset into the signal to overcome crossover distortion. This filter will remove that DC offset. Lastly, the “NoDC/DeEmp” type is, again, a special filter for recordings made with an EIAJ adapter that both removes DC offset and applies de–emphasis.



DC reject plus RIAA de–emphasis, the "NoDC/DeEmp"

In the plug–in menu, two versions are available. One is monaural while the other, SonicEQ(S), is stereo. Otherwise, the controls and parameters are the same as the pre–processor form discussed in section 10.1 above, with one exception.The plug–in version has an added convenience feature.

Tip: When adjusting controls with the sliders, hold down the shift key reduces the scaling and provides greater control.

Appendix 1 .....Best Practices & Maintenance

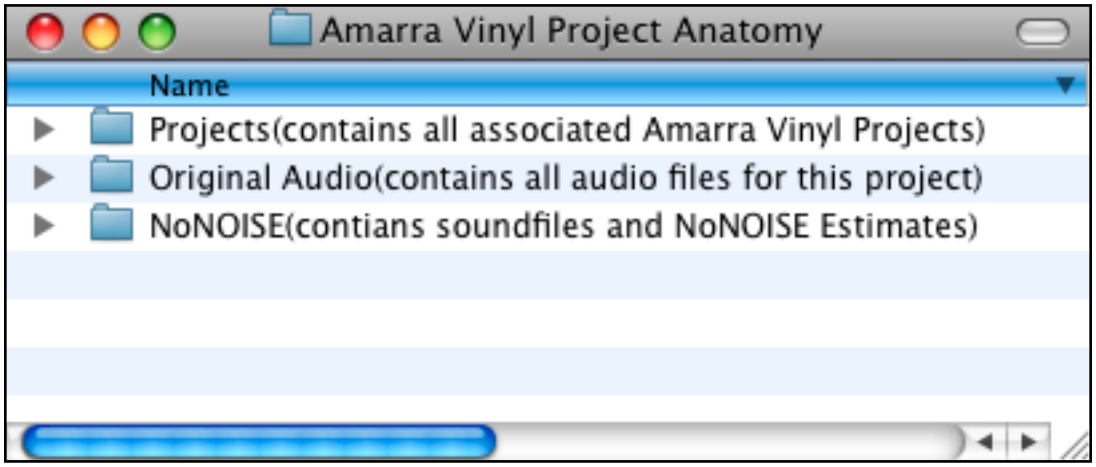
A1.1 Introduction

Although versatile in many ways, not every function that Amarra Vinyl offers is the best way of structuring your recording and restoration workflow. Some solutions are better than others, either for quality reasons or other reasons beyond the scope of this manual. In this appendix, we'd like to provide some guidelines in order to get the best out your software and establish a smooth and efficient production flow.

A1.2 Source Material Considerations

Amarra Vinyl handles a variety of source file formats and sample rates. It is therefore very tempting to 'grab' what you need and add it to your Project. But that may not be the best solution.

Important Note It's a good practice to prepare all source material needed before moving forward with sequencing, editing and finishing. By organizing your source material and storing all relevant data in the same directory, your projects will be highly portable, easy to archive and you'll avoid situations where files have "gone missing" from a job because they were not included in the Project subfolder. See the figure below as an example.


Amarra Vinyl Project Anatomy
Name
Projects(contains all associated Amarra Vinyl Projects)
Original Audio(contains all audio files for this project)
NoNOISE(contians soundfiles and NoNOISE Estimates)

The Anatomy Of An Amarra Vinyl Project.

A few words about dither: If you make any changes to your recorded audio such as gain, EQ, NoNOISE or adding a fade, you will need to use the dither feature in Amarra Vinyl when exporting your files for best results. Because the audio data is being modified, it must also be redithered or subtly randomized with an injection of tiny amounts of "shaped" noise in order to

prevent distortion. In the Window> Preferences > Delivery pane, you will find that Amarra Vinyl has a default preference to always redither the data when exporting or when simply playing back audio. Redithering at 16 or 24 bits is always a trade off between lower distortion and a slightly but audibly elevated noise floor. Amarra Vinyl uses an exclusive, spectrally shaped "2nd order" or triangular PDF redithering scheme. PDF or Probability Density Function describes the amplitude versus frequency plot of the dither generator. Our shaped dither is an excellent trade off between audibility and optimal linearity.

A1.3 Naming Conventions

1. Do not use audio files with the same file name within a Project. Rename beforehand, where necessary, with a descriptive name for later ease of archiving, restoration and project interchange.

2. The P&E wing of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences has published recommendation for naming conventions and other workflow methods to improve project interchange and archiving. See section A4.1 below…

LEARN: As a general practice, before importing then into soundBlade, make sure your soundfile names are less than 27 spaces long before file type suffix. You may need to rename them, removing extra characters, in the Finder prior to importing them into the soundBlade environment.

For example:

01 Copland_Fanfare_For_The_Common_Man.aiff

should be renamed to

01 Copland_Fanfare.aiff

You can always rename files to their proper titles in the Finder, prior to final delivery, after exporting or in the Mark Info window for CDTEXT.

A1.4 Hardware Considerations & Routine Maintenance

In this day and age of a BSD–based operating system and a journaling, self healing file system, it still is incumbent upon the cautious and wise engineer to perform routine maintenance on any host computers. Here are some tips we recommend…

File Systems

If you own a copy of DiskWarrior <www.alsoft.com>, run it monthly or when you host behaves strangely. If you don't own a copy, you should. Periodic maintenance is still needed with OS 10 and there is no better file system maintenance utility than DiskWarrior.

Storage Systems

Amarra Vinyl is fully compliant with Mac OS 10.5.8 and higher. Therefore, sound material can be used from any drive that your computer can access. This includes network–attached and

removable drives as well near–line optical drives. That said, not all mountable storage devices are suitable for reliable real-time or higher speed reads and writes of sound files. Always run Amarra Vinyl from the boot volume. Always store all files involved in your jobs on direct-attached, local volumes: internal ATA, FireWire, Thunderbolt, FC, SATA or SAS are acceptable. USB-attached storage peripherals of any kind should never be used. Also, disks must have more than enough free space, to store, record and playback all of your sound files.

1. Although you may find it will actually work, never use LAN or WAN–networked, flexible media or optical drives to record or playback sound files due to their excessive latency. Always copy files from those storage types to a dedicated, local, direct–attached hard disk or FC–networked storage (Fibre Channel) first, then use that disk for all Amarra Vinyl work.

2. When creating, copying or moving files, consider the file name and path name. Use short path names and employ only alphanumeric characters. The only non-alphanumeric characters that should be used are the hyphen (-) and underscore (_) characters. Other characters, such as !, @, #, $, %, ^, &, *, {, }, |, [,], \ and / will very likely cause problems in your work.

Permissions

Check that you have read and write permissions for the entire application package. Holding down the control key and highlighting the application will spawn a contextual menu with the choice to "Show Package Contents." Showing the package contents allows you to set yourself as read/write, the group should be "admin," also with read/write privileges.

You should also boot from the Apple-supplied install disc that came with your computer. Run the Disk Utility application and perform a Repair Permissions pass on your host. This is a routine maintenance task that, along with DiskWarrior, should be run about once a month.

3rd Party Configuration Management

As with OS 9, OS 10 employs "extensions" to the operating system that extend and sometimes complicate your life. Mac OS 9 had the Extensions Manager but, OS 10 does not ship with such a utility.

Fortunately, several vendors provide shareware or freeware versions of an Extensions Manager equivalent for OS 10. One is White Box's free Diablotin, available from <http://s.sudre.free.fr/> and the other is Teng Chou Ming & Scott Mitchell's X Overload2, a shareware utility available from <http://www.xoverload.com/>. Neither of these products can manage audio plug–ins.

A1.5 Apple's Spotlight Utility

We have found that on certain OS X systems, Apple's Spotlight can seriously affect not only soundBlade and Amarra Vinyl's performance, but other audio applications as well. We recommend

disabling Spotlight as a step to resolving problems related to sound skipping on playback, record, export and DDP/CDR delivery.

To turn off Spotlight for a specific folder, volume or drive:

- From the Apple menu in the top left corner of your screen, select System Preferences...
- In the Personal section, select Spotlight, then select the Privacy tab.
- Click the + button in the lower left corner and select the folder, volume or drive to be excluded.
- You can also drag the desired item to the list.

Start by preventing Spotlight from searching these locations:

- Your Home Folder
- Your internal or external audio drives
- Any back up drives connected

While disabling Spotlight completely on your Home Folder is an effective step in troubleshooting it may not be the best permanent solution for some users. There is an excellent article from the folks at tekreview.com with more specific instructions on troubleshooting Spotlight:

http://www.tekrevue.com/tip/three-ways-to-prevent-spotlight-from-indexing-items-on-your-mac/

For OS 10.6 and later this text can be typed into the Terminal Application: sudo mdutil -a -i off

Appendix 2 ..... Keyboard Shortcuts

Windows Shortcuts

Meters / Desk	command + 1
Console Log	command + 4
Preferences	command + comma (,)

File & Project Shortcuts

New Project	command + N
Open Project	command + O
Save Project	command + S
Close Window	command + W
Open Sound File	shift + command + O
Quit (application)	command + Q

Playback Shortcuts

Stop/Start Playback from Edit Point	spacebar
Play Selection	command + spacebar
Play from Playhead	option + spacebar
Repeat Play	command + option + spacebar
Hide Playhead When Stopped	option + P

Editing Shortcuts

Undo last Edit	command + Z
Redo last Undo	command + shift + Z
Select All	command + A
Deselect All	command + D
Cut	command + X
Copy	command + C
Paste (Replace)	command + V
Paste (Insert)	command + option + V
Paste (Constrained)	command + shift + V
Paste (Overlay)	option + V
Select All	command + A

Deselect All	command + D
Delete Selection	delete (backspace)
Clear Selection	option + delete (backspace)
Create Crossfade	control + G
Create Crossfade from In/In & Out Point	control + option + G
Nudge Selected Segment(s)	plus or minus (+ or -, numeric keypad)
Find & Set Points	command + backslash (\)
Set SRP	command + semicolon (;)
Set SRP with Text	F12
Clear Selected SRPs	control + semicolon (;)
Drop Edit Point	backslash (\)
Edit Point to Playhead	option + command + backslash (\)
Move Edit Point to Next Track Mark	shift + F6
Move Edit Point to Previous Track Mark	shift + command + F6
Move Edit Point to Next Segment Edit Point	shift + F5
Move Edit Point to Previous Segment Edit Point	shift + command + F5
Move Edit Point To In/Out Point	shift + F7
Move Edit Point to Next SRP	shift + F10
Move Edit Point to Previous SRP	shift + command + F10
Select Start to Edit Point	option + hyphen (-)
Select Edit Point to End	option + equals (=)
Select Segments to End	shift + command + right arrow
Select Segments To Start	shift + command + left arrow
Select between SRPs	double click at bottom of waveform display
Change Crossfade duration	shift + click/drag with Crossfade Tool

Viewing Shortcuts

Show Text View	option + T
Show Gain Overlay	option + G
Refresh	command + R
Standard Track Size	option + 5
Large Track Size	option + 6
Move Forward	right arrow
Move Forward/Backward	command + option + control + click/drag on waveform
Move Backward	left arrow
Zoom In	down arrow
Zoom Out	up arrow
Zoom In Around In Point	command + arrow left

Zoom Around Out Point	command + arrow right
Zoom Around Edit Point	command + arrow down
Zoom Out Around Edit Point	command + arrow up
Zoom In Around Playhead	option + arrow down
Zoom Out Around Playhead	option + arrow up
Zoom to Previous	command + P
Zoom to Next	command + option + P
Zoom to Selection	command + G
Zoom to Selection	command + option + click/drag on waveform
Zoom to Entire EDL	command + E
Zoom to (Time Line) Selection	command + click/drag right on time line
Zoom to Waveform selection	command + option + click/drag on waveform

Track Prep

Create Track Start Mark	F9
Create Track End Mark	F10
Delete Mark(s)	command + F12

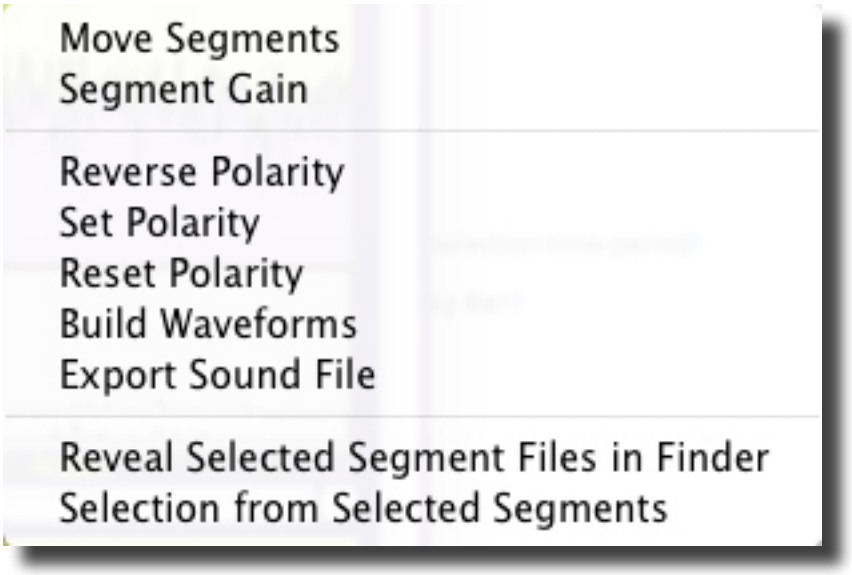
System

Preferences	command + comma
Select Nudge Size A	control + 1
Select Nudge Size B	control + 2
Select Nudge Size C	control + 3

Control–Click...

In the Waveform —

With a selection active, or on the selection's Drag Bar:



With a segment selected:

With Gain Overlay on —

On a Gain Node:

Lock Gain Node — locks the selected Gain Node(s)

Unlock Gain Node — unlocks the selected Gain Node(s)

Delete Nodes From Selection — deletes all nodes within the current selection

Lock Nodes from Selection — locks all nodes within the current selection

Unlock Nodes from Selection — unlocks all nodes within the current selection

Lock All Nodes in Track — locks all nodes in the Panel

Unlock All Nodes in Track — unlocks all nodes in the Panel

In the Track Bar —

Hovering over a Track Start, End or Index Mark:

Track Mark Locked — locks the selected Track Mark

Track Mark Unlocked — unlocks the selected Track Mark

Lock marks From Selection — locks all Track Marks in a selected region or segment(s)

Unlock marks From Selection — unlocks all Track Marks in a selected region or segment(s)

Lock All Marks — locks all Track marks in a track

Unlock All Marks — unlocks all Track marks in a track

Set Emphasis — sets emphasis flag for the selected Track Mark

Reset Emphasis flag — resets emphasis flag for the selected Track mark

Delete Mark — deletes selected Track mark

In the waveform display —

Hovering over a fade-in, fade-out or crossfade with Fade Tool enabled:

Linear — set the fade curve to be 6dB down in the center of the fade

Root-linear — set the fade curve to be 6dB down in the center of the fade

Cosine — default 3 dB down in the center

Root Cosine — default 6 dB down in the center

Exponential — provides very rapid reduction in gain across the fade

Set Fade to Fade In/Out/Crossfade — change the fade type to one of the default fade types

Set Fade To Selection — Sets the fade duration to match the current selection

Set Fade To Default Fade In/Out/Crossfade — changes all fade parameters to the Default Fade's characteristics

On a Track mark —

Hovering over a mark:

Move Edit Point To Mark — Moves Edit Point to this mark

Lock Mark — Locks this mark

UnLock Mark — Unlocks this mark

Lock Marks From Selection — Locks these marks

UnLock Marks From Selection — Unlocks these marks

Lock All Marks — Locks all marks

UnLock All Marks — Unlocks all marks

Set Emphasis — Sets the emphasis bit for this mark

Reset Emphasis — Disables the emphasis bit for this mark

Delete Mark — Deletes this mark

Note that, for the PDF version of this Index, only the page numbers, *not the preceding descriptive subject text*, are hyperlinked.

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Comments, corrections and suggestions regarding this manual are always welcome.

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